

en's 'Mess'

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So Far, U.S. Economy Resists Global Shock

Can It Continue Strong Rate of Growth And Stave Off Cataclysms Elsewhere?

By Nicholas D. Kristof
New York Times Service

Pigs to the left, pigs to the right, pigs all around him, Charles Burrus stood in the cacophonous center of his barn in south-central Illinois, gesturing at the indignant squealers. He felt like squealing too.

"I don't know what we're going to do in the next three months," Mr. Burrus said, oblivious to the stench of the 7,000 animals around him. "We're losing 10,000 to 15,000 a semi load."

Mr. Burrus, a 65-year-old whose gray hair peeks through his farm cap, has seen some tough times in a life of hog farming, including a fire that ripped through his barns in 1978 and roasted 1,200 pigs alive.

But nothing, he said, has ever been nearly as devastating as today's prices. These days he is bleeding money so badly that he worries about losing his 600-acre (243-hectare) farm here among the cornfields near Cartrall, Illinois, 130 miles (200 kilometers) southwest of Chicago.

"This is something we've never seen in the livestock business," Mr. Burrus said dolefully. "We've never seen this heavy a loss in the pork industry, not even in the Depression."

The problems on the Burrus farm, a sprawling collection of 14 hog buildings with temperature controls and automatic curtains on the windows, underscore how the economic crisis that began 19 months ago in Thailand is knocking on the gates of the American heartland. The only real chance of a rescue for Mr. Burrus would come through an economic revival on the other side of the globe, in Asia, where his hogs usually end up between chopsticks.

So far, the United States as a whole has been remarkably impervious to the crisis, and much of American industry has benefited from the cheaper oil and imports resulting from the

downturn elsewhere. Still, it is not clear whether the United States can remain unaffected, and the crisis presents the country — and the rest of the world — with far-reaching political and economic challenges.

Up to now, Mr. Burrus is the exception, and the American economy is still growing strongly. Yet apprehensions arise because the global economy is a three-engine jet, with one engine dead (Japan's) and another losing speed (Europe's). It all comes down to how much fuel is left

for the final, American engine.

If the Cuban missile standoff was a quintessential Cold War crisis, then the current global economic upheaval may be a landmark crisis of the post-Cold War era.

The simplest challenge is for the United States to sustain its strong growth rates. But the broader task will be to prevent nationalistic cataclysms in the worst-off countries, like Russia and Indonesia, and to contain the political and security risks of explosive frustration if the crisis bites further into places like China and Latin America.

The U.S. economy has demonstrated tremendous flexibility and resilience, but uncertainties arise because the Dow Jones industrial average is nearly 50 percent higher than its level Dec. 6, 1996, when Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve Board chairman, warned about "irrational exuberance."

Moreover, the Brazilian crisis — marking the failure of a bailout agreed to in November — underscores that the storm has not necessarily passed.

"To some extent, Brazil's problem

See MARKETS, Page 16

Israelis Kill 3 Kurds at Consulate

Protesters Tried to Storm Berlin Building Over Ocalan Capture

By Roger Cohen
New York Times Service

BERLIN — Israeli guards opened fire Wednesday on dozens of Kurds attempting to occupy the Israeli Consulate here, killing three people and wounding 16 in the worst violence since Europe-wide protests against the capture of a rebel Kurdish leader erupted.

Police said the shooting began after about 55 Kurds tried to enter the consulate in a tranquil Berlin suburb. The Kurds apparently chose their target in response to rumors that the Israeli secret service, Mossad, played a role in Turkey's capture of Abdullah Ocalan, the leader of the Kurdish Workers Party.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel said in Tel Aviv that the guards had fired in self-defense after Kurds brandishing hammers and clubs entered the Berlin consulate. He denied any Israeli role in Mr. Ocalan's capture.

"We did not cooperate with any element in Ocalan's capture," Mr. Netanyahu said. "We have to make this clear and emphasize this because this is the reality and this is the truth." Israel, which has a security cooperation agreement with Turkey, was the object of "false accusations," he added.

All Israeli diplomatic missions in Europe

were ordered closed and the United States urged Americans abroad to be cautious.

Mr. Ocalan, whose followers have waged a long separatist war in southeastern Turkey in which more than 30,000 people have died, was seized in Nairobi on Monday in circumstances that remain murky. Turkish security agents then flew him to Turkey, where he faces a possible death sentence on charges including treason and murder.

The killings came in a second day of widespread Kurdish protests initially focused on

Abdullah Ocalan's rise and fall. Page 6.

Kenyan and Greek missions in Europe. Mr. Ocalan was arrested after leaving the Greek Embassy in Nairobi, a sequence of events that apparently led many Kurds to believe he had been betrayed by the Greeks.

The swift violence of the Israeli response Wednesday stood in sharp contrast to the restraint of other embassies. "Our people have standing orders to prevent, with force if necessary, including by opening fire, any attempt to take hostages, and to defend themselves," Mr. Netanyahu said.

See KURDS, Page 6



German riot police, left, arresting a Kurdish protester near the Israeli Consulate in Berlin on Wednesday after Israeli guards fired at Kurds storming the consulate during the arrest by Turkey of Abdullah Ocalan. Mr. Ocalan, right, is shown under guard in an aircraft bringing him to Turkey in a photograph taken by a Turkish intelligence officer. He was captured by Turkish agents in Nairobi.



Turkey Blocks Entry of Ocalan Lawyers for Trial

By Stephen Kinzer
New York Times Service

ISTANBUL — Ecstasy and jubilation enveloped Turkey on Wednesday following the capture of the country's most wanted fugitive, the Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan, but debate over his forthcoming trial has already begun to turn bitter.

A team of Mr. Ocalan's lawyers was denied entry to the country Wednesday, and the government said it would not permit foreign observers at his trial.

Foreign leaders and human rights groups issued a

stream of statements urging Turkey to give Mr. Ocalan a chance to defend himself fully. Several Turkish commentators said the trial could prove a crucial test of Turkey's much-criticized judicial system.

Mr. Ocalan was captured last Monday night in Kenya, where he had been living clandestinely under the protection of Greek diplomats.

Turkish commanders brought him to Turkey before dawn Tuesday, and he has been taken to an island prison from which all other inmates are being evacuated.

In a televised interview, Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit brushed aside concerns about the trial, which is

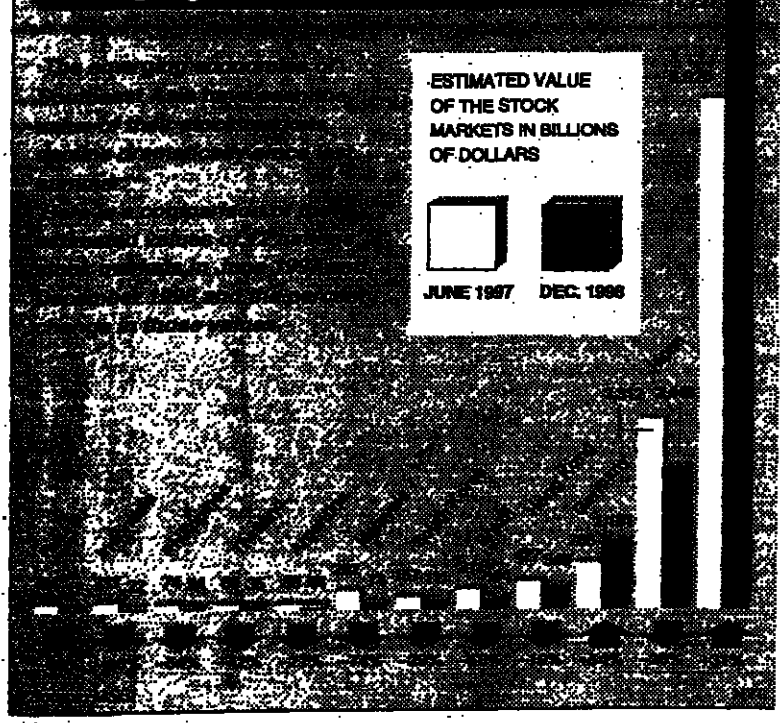
expected to focus on a few specific massacres allegedly perpetrated by Mr. Ocalan's Kurdish Workers Party, or PKK.

"It will be very free, a very just trial, because justice is very free in Turkey, autonomous," Mr. Ecevit said. "It need not last too long because all the illegal actions, the crimes of the PKK's leadership, are well known."

Asked about his government's refusal to allow Mr. Ocalan's lawyers to enter the country, he replied: "They want, more or less, to inspect the Turkish

See TURKEY, Page 6

Plunging Market Values



Jones Judge Ready for 'Contempt Issue'

Impeachment Over, President's Testimony in Civil Case to Be Examined

By Peter Baker
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Just days after winning acquittal at his impeachment trial, President Bill Clinton was confronted with a new legal threat as a federal judge signaled that she may hold him in contempt of court for providing misleading testimony about his affair with Monica Lewinsky.

Judge Susan Webber Wright of U.S. District Court, who oversaw the Paula Jones lawsuit that led to Mr. Clinton's impeachment, told attorneys involved in the case Tuesday afternoon that she would explore civil sanctions against the president and gave them until Friday to file the first motions related to the

process.

The judge's comments, made at her own initiative during a telephone conference call on an unrelated issue, took lawyers on both sides by surprise and indicated that the consequences of the Lewinsky scandal may not be completely over for Mr. Clinton, even if his trial in the Senate is. A contempt proceeding could revisit many of the same issues about Mr. Clinton's veracity that were examined in Congress, leading to written briefs and even a full-blown hearing in a Little Rock, Arkansas, courtroom.

A civil contempt citation could force the president to pay tens of thousands of dollars and conceivably sid the inde-

pendent counsel, Kenneth Starr, if he seeks to indict Mr. Clinton. On Tuesday, Mr. Starr reconvened his Lewinsky grand jury at the federal courthouse in Washington after weeks of inactivity, although it remained unknown what it was doing behind closed doors.

Judge Wright first raised the possibility of contempt in a footnote to an order last September but said Tuesday that she had waited to follow through because she "did not want to interfere in any way with the impeachment proceedings then underway" or with Mrs. Jones's attempt to reinstate her dis-

See CLINTON, Page 6

By Alan Friedman
International Herald Tribune

ROME — U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, in an unusually candid statement, said Wednesday there were "disagreements" among Group of Seven nations over how best to regulate world currency and financial markets.

Mr. Rubin, at a news conference in Washington, rejected proposals from Germany and Japan on ways to achieve

more currency stability. His remarks came just before a key meeting of G-7 finance ministers Saturday in Bonn.

"There certainly are disagreements on some issues," he said, referring specifically to a German proposal that would set up target areas within which the dollar, the euro and the yen would fluctuate. The plan has gained the backing of Japan.

The proposal, which has been spearheaded by Oskar Lafontaine, Ger-

many's finance minister, is for central banks and governments to intervene in the markets to defend certain foreign-exchange levels.

The U.S. Treasury chief said the United States would oppose any G-7 effort to target currency levels or manage exchange rates.

"We think that the way you achieve stability is to use fundamental economic policy," Mr. Rubin said, adding that if governments had to defend certain cur-

rency levels, this could require interest-rate increases by some countries, which could hurt growth.

Mr. Rubin's strong criticism of the currency-target proposal also came on the eve of a visit to the United States by President Jacques Chirac of France, who plans to tell President Bill Clinton that France wants tougher global controls of hedge funds, currency markets

See G-7, Page 6

Rubin Sees Clash in G-7 Over German Currency Plan

The Dollar			
New York	Wednesday @ 4 P.M.	previous close	
Euro	1.124	1.1203	
Pound	1.6345	1.6342	
Yen	118.805	118.645	
DM	1.7388	1.7459	
FF	5.8915	5.8555	
Dollars per pound and per euro			
The Dow			
Wednesday close	percent change		
-101.56	9.195.47	-1.09%	
S&P 500			
-17.82	1,224.05	-1.43%	
Nasdaq			
-64.88	2,248.99	-2.80%	
The IHT on-line: www.ihl.com			

AGENDA

U.S. Warns Milosevic on Kosovo Talks

WASHINGTON (APF) — The United States on Wednesday warned President Slobodan Milosevic that Yugoslavia must accept foreign peacekeepers in Kosovo.

A State Department spokesman, James Foley, said Saturday's deadline would stand for Kosovo's warring parties — the mainly Serb Yugoslav government and ethnic Albanian Koso-

var separatists — to reach an agreement that includes NATO peacekeepers.

"President Milosevic has just a few days to see the light, to see it in his country's interests as well as in the interests of the people of Kosovo to not only agree to the political settlement but to agree to a peace implementation force," Mr. Foley said.

Related article, Page 7.

Airfares Drop Sharply

Most major airlines have aggressively cut fares between the United States and Europe. The discounted fares are being offered in dozens of American and European cities. Page 11.

Books Page 9.
Crossword Page 6.
Opinion Pages 8-9.
Sports Pages 18-19.
The Internet Page 18.

Senate Race Could Be 'Nasty Fight,' Advisers Warn Hillary Clinton

By Elisabeth Bumiller
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — As Hillary Rodham Clinton said that she is giving "careful thought" to running for the Senate from New York, the first lady's friends and advisers warned her that a race could be brutal and that the easy victory predicted by some party leaders is not at all guaranteed.

Mrs. Clinton said Tuesday that she would reach a decision "later this year" and added that she was "deeply gratified by the large number of people" encouraging her to seek the seat of Daniel Patrick Moynihan, the Democrat who is retiring in 2000.

"It will be a nasty fight," said one of Mrs. Clinton's longtime friends and political advisers, speaking of a potential opponent, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani of New York City. "Everything in Hillary's background will be recycled," said the adviser, who insisted on anonymity. "She has to think about whether she is prepared to go through this battering."

Democrats in New York and elsewhere were taken aback Tuesday by Mrs. Clinton's statement that she will delay a decision. If she waits too long, the delay would paralyze other Democratic candidates, who need the time to raise the \$10 million to \$20 million required for the race.

"She needs to think and think fast," said Eleanor Holmes Norton, the District of Columbia's delegate to Congress. "That is, unless you want to give the New York Senate seat to Giuliani."

So far, Nita Lowey of Westchester County is the only Democrat to say she is seriously considering the race. Ms. Lowey has repeatedly said that she will not run if the first lady does.

Major Democratic fund-raisers said that Mrs. Clinton would have no problem raising enough money and that she could do it in two to three months.

As Mrs. Clinton decides, her advisers are making calls to New York political leaders and con-

sultants to gauge the depth of the first lady's support in New York. Polls show her to be enormously popular statewide, at least for now.

Harold Ickes, a former White House official who discussed the Senate race with Mrs. Clinton just a few days ago, was preparing to meet in Miami with Dennis Rivera, one of the most powerful labor leaders in New York City. "I'm anxious to talk to him about it," said Mr. Rivera, president of Local 1199 of the hospital workers union.

"We certainly are encouraging her to run."

But Mrs. Clinton's advisers say she must resolve

See SENATE, Page 6

Newstand Prices	
Bahrain	1,000 BD Mails 55 c
Cyprus	C 2 1.00 Nigeria 12800 Naira
Denmark	17 DKr 1.250 OR
Finland	12.00 FM 10.00 OR
Gibraltar	5.055 Pp. Ireland 10 SP
Great Britain	UK 51.00 Saudi Arabia 10 SR
Egypt	EE 5.50 S. Africa R16 incl VAT
Jordan	1.250 JD UAE 10.00 Dh
Kenya	K 84.160 US M (S&C) 5.120
Korea	700 Pp. 200.000



THE AMERICAS

Dole's Portrayal of Her Red Cross Success Leaves Some Unconvinced

By Charles R. Babcock
and Judith Havemann
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — As the just-retired president of one of the nation's largest charities, Elizabeth Hanford Dole portrays herself as a bold reformer who rescued a critically injured blood program and delivered "real-life miracles" to victims of natural disasters around the world.

Her work as president of the American Red Cross, she told an audience in New Hampshire last week, gave her experience overseeing 32,000 employees and 1.3 million volunteers. "I undertook a seven-year, \$287 million transformation of the way the organization collects, tests and distributes half of the nation's blood supply," she said.

This image of confident leadership and successful performance as head of a huge and complex organization is central to Mrs. Dole's pitch as she positions herself for a possible Republican presidential candidacy, her first run for public office.

But some who closely watched Mrs. Dole's management of the Red Cross during a period of turmoil and controversy offer a mixed assessment of her performance and what it suggests about her possible presidential leadership style.

She is a manager of great strengths and broad

vision, competently overseeing a charity with \$2 billion a year in revenue and missions as diverse as a Fortune 500 company, her admirers say. At a time when the Red Cross, like many charities, had seen its United Way funding plunge, Mrs. Dole not only made up the difference but used her own tenacity and persuasive charm to increase public donations by 9 percent. But she also has intertwined politics and philanthropy in a way that gave fuel to her critics in the nonprofit world.

At times, Mrs. Dole seemed more interested in her own image than that of the Red Cross, some observers inside and outside the charity say. Even in managing the crisis involving the safety of the Red Cross blood supply, which Mrs. Dole cites as her greatest achievement, she first launched what federal regulators later viewed as a public relations effort and her reform proceeded at a slow and costly pace until a federal agency finally sued the Red Cross to force serious top-to-bottom change.

In a schedule packed with paid speeches to civic and political groups, Mrs. Dole spent so much time on the road that she left herself open to criticism that no one was overseeing the organization's routine operations. A 1996 independent study of the Red Cross by KPMG Peat Marwick criticized Mrs. Dole's management style and reliance on a "shadow staff" of consultants.

Critics complained that she added her political allies to the payroll, including Mari Masing Will, the communications director for Bob Dole's 1996 presidential bid, who served as a consultant on the blood program. Mrs. Dole also installed important Republican donors, such as Inez Andrews, wife of the agribusiness giant Dwayne Andrews, a longtime supporter, on the Red Cross board of directors.

Always mindful of image, she occasionally tried to distance herself from controversies the Red Cross faced, according to those inside and outside the organization, leaving others to take the public heat.

"She delivers the good news," said Paul Clancy, editor of the Non-Profit Times, which has closely monitored Red Cross operations for years. "The bad news is delivered by someone else."

An event late last year showed how she sometimes left the impression that she was using the Red Cross job to better position herself politically, charity watchdog groups say.

Mrs. Dole was prominently featured on a prime-time television Christmas Eve "spectacular" showcasing the charity's achievements. "People were thrilled," said Josie Martin, Red Cross spokeswoman, who left her post last week. The show raised \$25,000 through a national toll-free number and may have brought in more to the Red Cross's 1,300 local chapters.

The telecast cost the Red Cross \$1.3 million to produce and was planned by Melinda Farris, a Red Cross consultant, who had helped organize special events for Mrs. Dole at the 1996 Republican National Convention.

Mrs. Farris came to the Red Cross in 1994 after doing political image consulting work for Republican women. She said she and Mrs. Dole never discussed her possible presidential candidacy during the preparation for the Christmas Eve television show.

Robert Bothwell, president of the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy, said that the program may have had a legitimate purpose but that its timing also gave it "the appearance of being a launching show" for a Dole presidential bid.

Eleven days after the show aired, Mrs. Dole announced that she would resign to consider a run for the White House.

The purest indicators of Mrs. Dole's performance as Red Cross president are the numbers that nonprofit groups use to measure success. Money magazine rated the Red Cross the nation's best-run charity in 1996, based on the proportion of its income, 92 percent, that went directly toward helping the public.

Norman Augustine, longtime chairman of the Red Cross board, said he thinks Mrs. Dole ranks high as a Red Cross leader.

"If I was speaking in business terms, I'd say

she's done 'a number,'" Mr. Augustine said.

In fund-raising, Mrs. Dole was battling against a \$67 million cutback in money received annually from the umbrella agency, United Way. She fought back, but it was an expensive proposition: The costs of fund-raising doubled from \$33 million in 1991, the year she arrived, to \$67 million last year.

Overall, however, it was a successful effort. The 9 percent increase in public donations that Mrs. Dole achieved translated to a total of \$567 million last year.

Corporate and other nontraditional donations more than doubled during her tenure. She called on business leaders she knew from her previous political jobs. Many of them gave generously to the Red Cross for the first time.

Mrs. Dole also lobbied personally to get Congress to give the Red Cross \$170 million, to the chagrin of less well-connected charities. Getting such money "smacks of inside dealings," said James MacPherson, head of America's Blood Centers, the group of nonprofit blood banks that competes with the Red Cross.

None of the controversies surrounding her leadership surfaced in New Hampshire last week as Mrs. Dole recapped her Red Cross years in what was billed as a speech on "the values of volunteerism" but which quickly took on the feel of a prelude to a presidential announcement.

It's a Wonderful Midlife

The Classic Crisis Isn't the Norm, Study Shows

By Erica Goode
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — On Madison Avenue, childhood is carefree, adolescence equals angst, and middle age is synonymous with emotional upheaval — and a passion for sports cars.

But researchers who study the unfolding course of human lives have learned to distrust such popular stereotypes. The reality of development across the human lifespan, they find, is almost always more complicated, less romantic and far more interesting than any portrayal offered up by the world of advertising.

Certainly this is true of the portrait of middle age emerging from a 10-year study of nearly 8,000 Americans by the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Successful Midlife Development, which released the first in a series of reports on its findings Monday.

Far from being a time of turmoil, for most people the middle years appear to be a time of psychic equanimity, good health, productive activity and community involvement, the researchers found. "On balance, the sense we all have is that middle age is the best place to be," said Orville Brim, director of the network, which is made up of researchers from many academic disciplines.

The years between 35 and 65, and in particular the decades between 40 and 60, are when people report increased feelings of well-being and a greater sense of control over many parts of their lives. A majority of participants in the MacArthur study said they felt better about their lives than they did 10 years before.

Finances and sex life were the areas over which people in the study felt they had least control. Men in the study felt more in control of their marriages than women, while women felt more in control of their sex lives.

And though the notion that most people undergo a "midlife crisis" persists in the public mind, the study confirms earlier findings that midlife upheaval is the exception rather than the rule: Only 23 percent of participants in the study reported having a midlife crisis, and only one-third of those described the crisis as a time of personal turmoil brought about by the realization that they were aging.

The rest tied the crisis to specific events in their lives, in some cases events that had

nothing to do with aging. Margie Lachman, a professor of psychology at Brandeis University and a member of the MacArthur network, said people who did experience a midlife crisis appeared more likely to score high on a scale of "neuroticism" and to have a higher level of education.

The centerpiece of the MacArthur project is the Midlife Development in the United States, or MIDUS, survey, an in-depth canvassing of 3,000 English-speaking adults from 25 to 74 years old. The survey, conducted by telephone with follow-up mail questionnaires, explored a variety of areas under the broad headings of physical health, psychological well-being and social responsibility and was designed to explore why some people seem more successful at achieving these in midlife than others.

A further 5,000 subjects also completed the telephone interview and mail questionnaire as part of 11 related studies. Results from those studies will be released in future reports, Mr. Brim said.

While other research has plumbed various aspects of the middle of the human lifespan, the strengths of the MacArthur project, the researchers said, are its size and comprehensiveness and the opportunity it affords researchers to compare and correlate data from a large sample in many domains of life.

In the realm of physical health, the study found a "strong sense of optimism among people in midlife" about their health and the prospects for it in the future. More than 70 percent of those surveyed described their health as excellent, though that number dropped about 20 points among older respondents when they were asked how good they expected their health to be in 10 years.

Though survey participants were likely to underestimate their risk of serious illnesses such as cancer and heart disease, according to Paul Cleary, professor of health-care policy at Harvard Medical School, who analyzed some of the survey's health data, more than 95 percent agreed that "keeping healthy depends on things I can do."

Back problems (22 percent), arthritis or rheumatism (21 percent), anxiety, depression or other emotional difficulties (21 percent), stomach trouble (20 percent) and high blood pressure or hypertension (19 percent) were the most frequent complaints among study participants aged 35 to 64.

Murder With 'Dramatic' Flair

Prosecutors Hone Motive Theory in Texas Racist Killing

By Rick Lyman
New York Times Service

JASPER, TEXAS — John William King had dreamed of forming his own chapter of a white supremacist group but felt he needed some dramatic event to catapult him into the limelight and attract members.

That, prosecutors said on Tuesday for the first time, is the theory of why Mr. King and two other young white men chained a 49-year-old black man to the back of their pickup truck last June and dragged him 3 miles (5 kilometers) down a country road until his flayed and battered body was torn apart.

The case against Mr. King, 24, the first of the three suspects to come to trial in the death of James Byrd Jr., opened Tuesday morning before a jury of seven men and five women — all white except for one black man.

"Bill King needed to do something dramatic that would get media attention, which would attract, in their warped world, new members," said the Jasper County prosecutor, Judge James Gray, in his 10-minute opening statement.

In a search of the apartment that Mr. King had been sharing with his fellow defendants — Shawn Berry, 23, and Lawrence Brewer, 31 — police found not only racist books but also an article from the December 1996 issue of *Black Panther* magazine, about the killing of Emmett Till in Mississippi, a notorious racist slaying of the 1950s, pointing

out how the accused killers had gone free when an all-white jury acquitted them.

Police also found some of Mr. King's own racist writings, including a constitution he had written for an organization he hoped to create called the Texas Rebel Soldiers Division of the Confederate Knights of America. Also found were a code of ethics for the group, a list of

Letters written by a defendant included racist statements about sexual relations between white women and black men.

bylaws, applications for membership and a letter to be sent out to new members. The new organization was to begin operating on July 4, 1998, Mr. Gray said. Prosecutors hope to prove that the timing of Mr. Byrd's death, less than a month earlier, was intended to help in that beginning.

Mr. King became a member of the Confederate Knights of America, a prison-based white supremacy group, while serving a jail term in the mid-1990s. It was during this stretch that he met Mr. Brewer, also a member of the racist group. Mr. Berry had been a friend of Mr. King since their high-school days.

Prosecutors also introduced letters on Tuesday that were written by Mr. King to a 15-year-old girl who had been his pen pal while he was in prison. Those letters included numerous profanities and racist statements, particularly about sexual relations between white women and black men.

Haden Cribbs, the chief defense lawyer, made no opening statement on Tuesday but reserved the right to make one later. He did pause during one of the breaks in the trial to shake his head at the evidence that prosecutors had unveiled in the trial's opening day.

"The evidence does appear overwhelming," Mr. Cribbs said, but he cautioned against concluding that, as a result, Mr. King is guilty of the charges against him.

In letters to local newspapers, Mr. King has admitted to being in the pickup the night of the murder but said he had left the others before the killing, which he blamed on a drug deal turned sour between Mr. Berry and Mr. Byrd. Mr. King's lawyers have yet to reveal their trial strategy.

Mr. King's father, suffering from emphysema, sat in the front row behind the defense table at the trial, plastic tubing connected to an oxygen canister beneath the long bench. At the defense table, Mr. King sat quietly watching the testimony, often resting his head in his left hand. His two lawyers, both white, sat to his left.

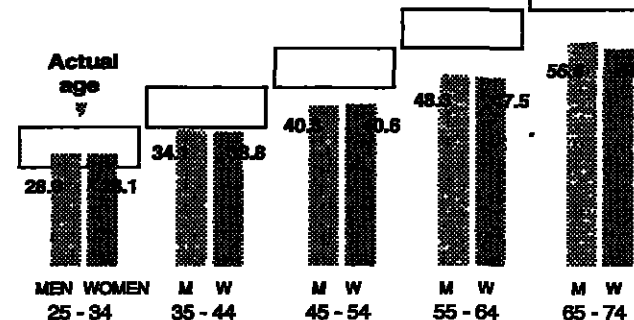
On the other side of the aisle sat two rows of the friends and relatives of Mr. Byrd.

Getting Through Midlife Without the Crises

In a survey of adults, ages 25 to 74, participants were asked a wide variety of questions dealing with many aspects of life. The results show that those in midlife have a generally youthful outlook and a high level of happiness.

What age do you feel most of the time?

PEOPLE FROM 35 TO 74 YEARS FEEL YOUNGER THAN THEIR AGE



Quality of life in several domains



Source: MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Successful Midlife Development

No Longer the Poor Cousins

Republican Moderates Gaining Power on Key Issues

By James Dao
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Since Republicans regained control of Congress in 1994, the party's conservative leaders have treated Republican moderates like poor cousins — patiently tolerated but frequently ignored.

Now these moderates, concerned that impeachment has tarnished their party, and them, too, are vowing a more forceful role in Congress this year, demanding that the party take pragmatic stands on issues like abortion, education, taxes and the environment.

"People perceived as the most dogmatic, I mean conservative, are opening their minds to us out of necessity," said Representative Brian Bilbray of California. "They realize their agenda is not going to move without us."

Moderates have made pronouncements like that in the past, only to buckle under pressure from conservatives. But they contend their hand is stronger this year for several reasons.

One is the election of Representative Dennis Hastert of Illinois as speaker. He is widely viewed as a pragmatist.

Another is the Republicans' slim nine-vote majority in the House, which will require the leadership to court moderate Republicans, or conservative Democrats, to enact legislation.

"I'd rather we had a larger majority, but for the short term, it helps us," said Representative Peter King of New York, who often votes with the moderates.

In addition, Republicans of all stripes are saying that the party must prove it is about

more than impeachment. That will require moving toward the center and passing substantive legislation on health care, education and taxes, the moderates contend.

"At this point, Republicans aren't terribly popular in many parts of the country," said Representative Jim Ramstad of Minnesota, who represents the moderates in House leadership meetings. "Impeachment has exacerbated that problem. The pressure is on the Republican Congress to produce, no question about it."

Representative David McIntosh, a leading Republican conservative from Indiana, said conservatives see a need to talk more with moderates.

"On the social issues, there are big differences of opinions," he said. "But people understand that when you have a narrow margin, you can't have everything you want, so let's work through those issues."

But the limits of the moderates' influence were made clear last week when the House leadership won passage of a bill that would make it easier to kill legislation that is considered expensive to business, typically environmental or health and safety measures.

In the first weeks of the 106th Congress, moderates in both houses have asserted themselves on several major issues. Most prominently, all five Republican senators who voted against both articles of impeachment last week were Northeast moderates.

But the impact of the moderates is more likely to be felt in the House, which has been the more partisan chamber in recent years.

POLITICAL NOTES

Clinton Leads Surplus Battle

WASHINGTON — With impeachment behind him and the Republican-controlled Congress in recess, President Bill Clinton is trying this week to gain the upper hand in the debate over how to divide the federal budget surplus while saving Social Security.

The campaign began Wednesday with satellite-linked town-hall meetings aimed at selling young people on the president's plan to shore up the retirement system and Medicare, which provides health insurance for the elderly and disabled. Mr. Clinton goes to New Hampshire on Thursday to talk about tax-credit proposals.

Administration officials say they want to sharpen the distinctions between the president's insistence on dealing with Social Security before trimming taxes and the Republicans' emphasis on across-the-board tax cuts.

Although some authorities say the surest way to shore up Social Security is to raise taxes and reduce benefits, the White House maintains this is unnecessary. (AP)

New Jersey Senator Will Retire

WASHINGTON — Senator Frank Lautenberg announced Wednesday that he will not seek a fourth term in 2000. The New Jersey Democrat, who turned 75 last month, has insisted for months that he wanted to win another term in hopes of becoming a committee chairman should Democrats win back control of the Senate.

Mr. Lautenberg's decision will affect the political calculations of both parties as they plot the 2000 elections. With 19 Republican seats and 14 Democratic seats up for re-election, Democrats are energized at the idea of narrowing or closing the 55-45 seat advantage now held by the Republicans. (AP)

Quote/Unquote

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani of New York, about the possible Senate candidacy of Hillary Rodham Clinton: "She hasn't decided to run. I haven't decided to run. I learned in politics a long time ago that until there is a race, everything is speculation." (NYT)

Away From Politics

• An auction of O.J. Simpson's sports memorabilia and other belongings raised a total of \$430,000, including \$230,000 for the former football hero's Heisman Trophy. The proceeds will go toward paying a \$33.5 million civil judgment against him over the 1994 murders of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman. (Reuters)

• The largest of the surviving octuplets has been moved from an incubator to a nursery crib at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston. Jioke Chukwu, who weighs just under four and a half pounds, and his sister Echerem remain in serious condition. Five siblings are in critical condition. (AP)

• State officials plan to vaccinate nearly 5,000 people in Williston, North Dakota, after a 2-year-old boy died of a meningitis-related bacterial infection. (AP)

Monday

HEALTH/SCIENCE

With a wide range of topics from technology to space exploration, from recent medical discoveries to how the human brain functions, this in-depth feature brings up-to-date information on scientific and physical developments in the intriguing worlds of health and science.

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Pakistan High Court Rules Against Military Tribunals

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — In a ruling that spurs 14 people from death sentences, the Pakistani Supreme Court decided Wednesday that civilians cannot be tried in military courts.

The seven-member panel declared that "military courts for the trial of civilians" were "unconstitutional, without lawful authority and of no legal effect."

Attorney General Chaudhry Farooq said the cabinet of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif would meet to decide whether to ask the court to review the decision.

Supreme Court rulings cannot be appealed, but justices can be asked to reconsider their decisions.

In November, the government set up the new military tribunals in Sindh Province to try to reduce the spiraling crime rate. Last month, the government announced it would establish similar courts throughout the country in a campaign to fight crime.

"We are not oblivious of the fact that terrorism in Karachi and in other parts of Pakistan has not only taken a toll of thousands of innocent lives but has also affected the economy of the entire country," the judgment read.

"And it is a matter of paramount importance that this menace is eliminated effectively in the shortest possible time, for which a solution should be found within the framework of the constitution."

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan welcomed the court ruling, calling it a "victory for the country's constitution." It said the decision was a "defeat of those who pleaded expediency above rule of law, arbitrariness in place of established norms."

There was some uncertainty over when and how the Supreme Court ruling goes into effect. It said all cases before the military courts must be transferred to Pakistan's anti-terrorism courts.

Within hours of the judgment, the

military courts that were in session adjourned, the Associated Press of Pakistan said.

An army spokesman earlier said the trials would stop once the army had received its orders from the government or the Supreme Court.

Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto called the court ruling a "slap in the face for a regime hell-bent upon destroying every institution of state."

The Muttahida Qaumi Movement, often known as MQM, a small ethnic party that dominates the cities of southern Sindh Province, accused the government of using the military courts to target its supporters.

The MQM, which represents Urdu-speaking Indians who emigrated to Pakistan, challenged the legality of the tribunals in an appeal to the Supreme Court.

"This decision shows that the Supreme Court is not under pressure from anyone," Babar Qauri, an MQM spokesman, said. "The decision has proved that the people of Pakistan can approach the Supreme Court to seek justice."

Three people were executed in Sindh Province after being convicted by an army-run court. Last month, the Supreme Court ordered all death sentences suspended pending its ruling.

The government argued that the military courts were effective and that the crime rate had dropped substantially since the panels began operating in Karachi, the Sindh provincial capital.

Cases before the military courts generally take less than two weeks, compared with months, and sometimes years, in the civilian judicial system.

In the military trials, the court appoints attorneys for the defendants and the attorneys are not allowed to call witnesses, even though prosecutors can call witnesses. The defendants' attorneys cannot argue verbally and must present their defense entirely in writing.



Members of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement celebrating the court ruling in Karachi on Wednesday.

In Indonesia, a Clash and a Rally

JAKARTA — Indonesian troops fired warning shots Wednesday in a clash with thousands of workers in Surabaya, the No. 2 city, while in Jakarta hundreds of people demonstrated to show support for former President Suharto.

At least 20 people were hurt in Surabaya when hundreds of troops used batons and water cannon to break up a protest by 5,000 workers trying to break through army barricades and advance on the city center, witnesses said.

"They had tried to go the city, and none of the workers are allowed to enter no matter what," said the police chief, Colonel Bambang Soetrisno. He said that four students had been arrested.

The workers from a household goods maker, PT Maspin, have held several protests this month to demand more money and better conditions and have fought several

times with security forces.

On Tuesday, the police fired warning shots and tear gas to disperse 4,000 Maspin workers rallying in the factory's compound.

In Jakarta, about 400 demonstrators gathered in front of the attorney-general's office to show support for former President Suharto and his family, who are under investigation over graft allegations.

Witnesses said there were no security forces at the scene. The protesters insisted that Mr. Suharto and his relatives should not be vilified or mocked by the Indonesian people.

About 500 people rallied in support of Mr. Suharto's eldest daughter, Siti Hardianti Rukmana, this month while she was being questioned at the same office over corruption charges.

Indonesia has been rocked by religious, political and social violence over the past year as it faces its worst

economic and political crisis in decades.

Meanwhile, the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Cornelio Sommaruga, said he had asked for permission to expand relief operations in Indonesia because of the worsening situation, especially in the disputed territory of East Timor and the province of Aceh.

The Red Cross has about five expatriates in East Timor, five in Jakarta and two on a semi-permanent basis in Aceh in Sumatra. Mr. Sommaruga said he had asked Foreign Minister Ali Alatas to be allowed to establish a permanent office in Aceh.

The western province has a centuries-old history of fighting central rule. Scores have been killed in the staunchly Muslim province during clashes over the last six weeks, mostly between pro-separatist civilians and the military.

BRIEFLY

Muslim Secessionist Is Willing To Meet Philippines President

MANILA — The Muslim secessionist leader Salamat Hashim is prepared to meet President Joseph Estrada to push peace talks forward in the southern Philippines, the chief rebel negotiator said Wednesday.

Ghazali Jaafar, vice chairman for political affairs of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, said rebel leaders held a top-level meeting Tuesday to discuss the proposed meeting between President Estrada and Mr. Hashim, chairman of the Moro rebels.

Mr. Estrada is scheduled to visit Mindanao, the main southern Philippine island, from Feb. 25 to Feb. 28. A presidential spokesman, Jerry Barican, said Mr. Estrada is prepared to meet Mr. Hashim "provided the ground work has been set" and the agenda is clear. (AP)

UN Concern Over India Attacks

NEW DELHI — A senior UN official said Wednesday that there was a serious reaction in India to recent attacks on the Christian minority, and she urged the authorities to take strict action against those responsible.

Mary Robinson, UN high commissioner for human rights, said Indian officials had candidly spoken about the attacks against the Christian community.

Christians, who make up less than 3 percent of the predominantly Hindu nation, have faced a wave of attacks since Christmas by alleged Hindu extremists in Gujarat in western India and Orissa in the east. (Reuters)

Dhaka Opposition Plans Strike

DHAKA, Bangladesh — An alliance of opposition parties will hold a 72-hour nationwide strike later this month to coincide with local municipal elections, an opposition spokesman said Wednesday.

The strike, to be led by former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, is part of a campaign to demand the dismissal of Bangladesh's chief election commissioner, Mohammad Abu Hena.

The opposition accuses Mr. Hena of favoring Prime Minister Hasina Wazed's Awami League party in recent elections and says he would do the same in municipal elections Feb. 23-25. An opposition strike last week killed seven and injured at least 1,000. (AP)

Thais Seek Better Burma Ties

BANGKOK — Thailand indicated Wednesday that it wanted to improve its diplomatic ties with Burma's military government after a series of border incidents that strained relations.

Thailand's army chief, Surayuth Chulanont, said before leaving on a three-day official visit to Burma that his mission was to soothe relations.

Relations between Thailand and Burma have been tested in recent months, after a series of gun battles at sea along disputed border areas between the southern Thai province of Ranong and Burma's Victoria point. At least seven people have been killed in the incidents, involving armed Burmese vessels and ships, which have occurred sporadically since the middle of 1998. (Reuters)

Coalition Faces Uphill Task In Eastern Malaysian State

KUALA LUMPUR — Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad's governing coalition will have difficulty retaining power in the eastern Sabah state in elections that could be called as soon as next month, senior Malaysian officials say.

"It will be an uphill task due to anti-federal sentiment and widespread practice of money politics," a deputy minister from the National Front coalition said in an interview after making a visit to Sabah.

Family members were divided in their support for the various parties, he said. "The wife would support the government," he said, "but the husband is a supporter of the opposition."

He also said that Sabah members of Mr. Mahathir's United Malays National Organization did not demonstrate their loyalty to the party, unlike members in peninsular Malaysia.

"Their interest was more important than the party's," he said.

Mr. Mahathir's party is the dominant member of the National Front coalition and champions the interests of the country's Muslims, who represent about 54 percent of the 2.2 million Malaysians.

The Sabah state government's term ends March 18 and an election should be held within 60 days after the term expires.

Analysts expect the assembly to be dissolved after the Lunar New

Year celebrations this week and elections to be held in mid-March.

An unofficial election campaign has been waged for the past couple of weeks, and Mr. Mahathir is expected to start a three-day visit to Sabah on Feb. 18.

The deputy minister said a visit by some senior UMNO ministers to help in the election campaign had backfired because of their insensitive approach.

"Some of these ministers just play golf and entertain supporters at the hotels," he said.

UMNO has 21 of the 43 seats held by the coalition in the 48-seat Sabah state assembly.

The National Front is expected to face a stiff challenge from the local opposition party, the Kadazan-Basutan Parti Bersatu Sabah led by Joseph Pairin Kitingan.

The local party is making a comeback after winning 25 seats in the 1994 election but then having 21 legislators defect within a month of being sworn in.

Political observers say the National Front also faces a challenge for the Muslim vote from Parti Barisan Rakyat Sabah Bersekutu, led by another former chief minister, Harris Salleh.

A major concern among opposition parties is false ballots. Mr. Pairin of Parti Bersatu Sabah highlighted the issue recently, saying he feared "the dead would rise from the grave to vote." There are 726,000 eligible voters in Sabah.

INTERNATIONAL

Truth Panel Rejects Amnesty Plea in Killing of Biko

By Suzanne Daley

New York Times Service

JOHANNESBURG — Four former police officers who maintained that they had accidentally killed the anti-apartheid activist Steve Biko when he became agitated and had to be restrained have been refused amnesty by South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

In a lengthy ruling, the commission cited several reasons for its judgment, including the belief that the officers had lied about what happened to Mr. Biko, who died of severe head injuries after they interrogated him in 1977.

The commission said the applicants' version of Mr. Biko's death was "so improbable and contradictory that it has to be rejected as false."

"Moreover, none of the applicants has impressed us as a credible witness," the commission said. "They had clearly conspired to conceal the truth of what led to the tragic death of Biko soon after the incident and have persisted in this attitude before us."

The ruling Tuesday night ended one of the more controversial cases to go before the commission, which was created to help South Africa put its brutal past to rest without the expense and divisiveness of criminal trials.

In theory the ruling leaves the officers vulnerable to criminal prosecution. But that seems unlikely. Legal experts say that proving a charge of murder with intent to kill would be extremely difficult. And a lesser charge of manslaughter would not be possible because the 20-year statute of limitations has expired.

Just how Mr. Biko was killed has been one of the apartheid-era's most enduring mysteries.

Mr. Biko and a friend were arrested outside the small town of Grahamstown in August 1977 on their way to a political meeting in Cape Town. His death in custody that September stirred outrage abroad, and many see it as a turning point in the campaign against apartheid.

The amnesty hearings for the officers, which drew hundreds of spectators, appeared to provide some new details about

how the young founder of the Black Consciousness Movement died.

The officers described how they lied about which day Mr. Biko was taken into custody to cover up the fact that they had not sought medical treatment for him. And they told of how Mr. Biko was left, standing and handcuffed to a window grille for nearly two days even though it was clear that he was no longer coherent.

But the officers claimed that Mr. Biko suffered his head injuries by accident after he lunged at them because they would not let him sit down. Some said Mr. Biko's head was slammed into a wall like a battering ram during the scuffle. One of the officers said Mr. Biko also hit his head on a table.

After the botched interrogation, Mr. Biko was driven about 800 kilometers (500 miles) across the country, lying naked and shackled in the back of a police van, for medical care in Pretoria. The 30-year-old activist died in a police cell before he was taken to the hospital.

To qualify for amnesty, an applicant must confess all and have had a political motive for his actions.

But none of the officers — Daniel Petrus Siebert, Jacobus Johannes Oosthuysen Benneke, Rubin Marx and Harold Snyman (who has since died) — admitted to any crime, saying that they had acted to defend themselves or to restrain Mr. Biko.

For that reason alone, the commission said, it could not grant amnesty. Also if the act was an accident, it could hardly be associated with a political objective, the commission said.

A separate application by a fifth police officer who participated in the interrogation of Mr. Biko, Gideon Nieuwoudt, was rejected last month for similar reasons.

In dismissing the police officers' versions of Mr. Biko's death, the commission said it appeared more probable that Mr. Biko was attacked because the officers were offended by his "arrogant, recalcitrant and noncooperative attitude, particularly exemplified by his occupying a chair without their permission to do so."

"This view is reinforced by the cruel and inhumane manner in which Biko was treated after he sustained the fatal injury," the commission said.

BRIEFLY

Gore Leads Visit To South Africa

CAPE TOWN — Vice President Al Gore led a high-level U.S. delegation to South Africa on Wednesday, urging the country to focus on business development as much as it had on abolishing apartheid.

Mr. Gore made the appeal as he visited a factory in Cape Town that manufactures windup radios and flashlights, most of which are sold in the United States.

Mr. Gore and the South African deputy president, Thabo Mbeki, are to chair a meeting Thursday of the United States-South Africa Binational Commission, which will discuss cooperation on trade, justice, conservation, health and other issues.

Accompanying Mr. Gore are Attorney General Janet Reno, Commerce Secretary William Daley, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman, Energy Secretary Bill Richardson and other top officials. (AP)

Congo Rebels Fight For Diamond Center

KIGALI, Rwanda — Reinforced by fresh Rwandan troops, Congolese rebels have broken a months-old lull in fighting and are pressing toward a key southern diamond center, the rebels and Rwandan sources said Wednesday.

Ernest Wamba dia Wamba, the

rebel leader, said the fresh offensive had followed the failure of African mediators to broker a cease-fire and persuade Laurent Kabila, president of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to negotiate peace directly with the insurgents.

Mr. Kabila is insisting on Rwandan and Ugandan withdrawal from Congo. Rwandan sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said chartered Russian aircraft recently had airlifted thousands of Rwandan troops to southeastern Congo, where they were assisting the rebels in a three-front offensive aimed at Mbuji-Mayi and its mines, 930 kilometers (580 miles) east of the capital, Kinshasa. (AP)

Cuba Toughens Law On Major Crimes

HAVANA — Cuba's National Assembly, heading a call from President Fidel Castro to get tough on crime, has adopted legislation applying the death penalty and life imprisonment for drug trafficking and other offenses.

The law, which modified 25 of the nearly 350 articles of Cuba's existing penal code, was approved Tuesday and gives legal teeth to an ongoing crackdown waged by Cuban police against criminals of all kinds.

This followed a speech by Mr. Castro last month in which he condemned rising crime, including drug trafficking, murder, rape, prostitution and violent robberies, as a major threat to the security of Cuba's socialist society. (Reuters)

U.S. Customs Notes Risk of Corruption

WASHINGTON — The front-line role of the Customs Service in the U.S. government's war against illegal drugs has left the agency highly vulnerable to narcotics-related corruption, customs officials have acknowledged in a report to Congress.

The report, which was sent to a House of Representatives panel with jurisdiction over the agency, admitted that the service had failed to combat corruption aggressively. In an atmosphere of neglect, internal inquiries languished and were sometimes impeded because of infighting, the report said.

The report is the service's most extensive and critical examination of the way it deals with narcotics-related corruption and other internal issues after years in which sporadic corruption cases have tarnished the image of an agency with 12,000 field inspection employees.

The report concluded, "The large amounts of illegal drugs that pass through U.S. Customs' land, sea and air ports of entry and the enormous amount of money at the disposal of drug traffickers to corrupt law-enforcement personnel place customs and its employees at great risk to corruption."

Once focused on preventing the entry of illegal trade goods and farm products, the service has been thrust in recent years into broad responsibilities in interdicting narcotics at the 300 ports through which marijuana, cocaine, heroin and other illegal drugs can flow into the United States. The report was ordered by lawmakers, but customs officials said the agency had taken the initiative to review its approach to corruption issues.

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دکتر جلیلی

BRIEFLY

Tim Secessionist Is Willing to Let Philippines President

MANILA — The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has agreed to a peace deal with the Philippine government, ending a 20-year conflict in the southern Philippines. The deal, signed by MILF Chairman Nur Misuari and Philippine President Joseph Estrada, calls for a ceasefire and the creation of an autonomous region for Muslims in Mindanao. The agreement is a significant step towards resolving the long-standing conflict in the region.

Concern Over India Attack

NEW DELHI — A series of attacks on Christians in India has sparked concern over the safety of religious minorities. The attacks, which have occurred in several states, have led to calls for stronger government protection of religious freedom. The Indian government has expressed its commitment to protecting all citizens, regardless of their religion.

Also Opposition Plans Split

DAKA, Bangladesh — A split in the opposition has emerged, with some groups calling for a united front against the government. The opposition has been divided over the issue of how to respond to the government's policies, with some advocating for more aggressive action and others for a more moderate approach.

Asia Seek Better Burma Trade

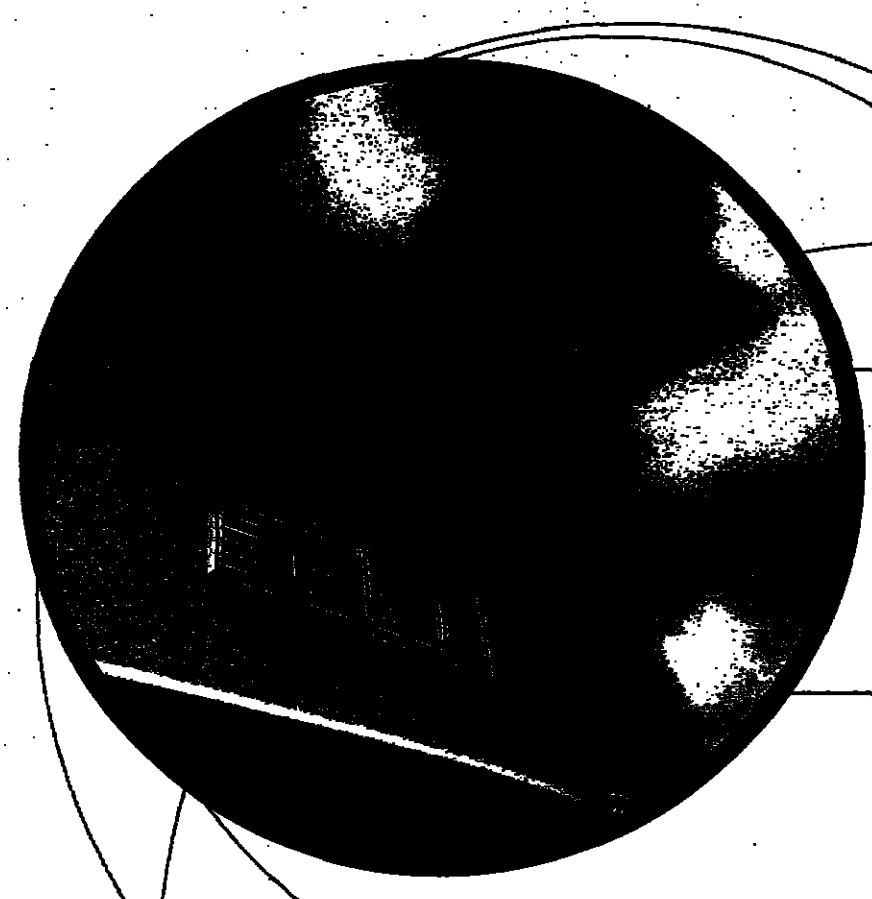
ANGKOR — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced a new initiative to improve trade and economic relations with Burma. The initiative aims to provide technical assistance and financial support to help Burma develop its economy and improve its trade infrastructure. The ADB is committed to promoting sustainable economic growth and development in the region.

Killing of Biko

JOHANNESBURG — The death of anti-apartheid leader Steve Biko has been the subject of a new investigation. The investigation, which is part of a broader effort to uncover the truth about the apartheid era, has found that Biko's death was a result of police brutality. The findings have led to calls for accountability and reform of the South African police force.

U.S. Customs Risk of Corruption

WASHINGTON — A report from the U.S. Customs Service has warned of a growing risk of corruption among customs officials. The report, which is based on a series of investigations, has found that some officials are engaged in illegal activities, such as accepting bribes and misappropriating funds. The U.S. Customs Service has taken steps to address the problem, including implementing stricter oversight and training programs.



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EUROPE

TURKEY:
Trial Debate Rages

(Continued from Page 1)

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Ethnic Albanian children, refugees from Kosovo warfare, getting some sun Wednesday at a Sarajevo shelter.

Kosovo Accord: It's Up to Belgrade

By Charles Trueheart
Washington Post Service

RAMBOUILLET, France — The endgame of the Kosovo negotiations is being played out from the chateau here, where Belgrade representatives and ethnic Albanians from Kosovo have been negotiating, with the aid of international mediators, since Feb. 7.

The final part of the game is being played where many who felt skepticism about the Rambouillet negotiations expected it would be in Belgrade, where President Slobodan Milosevic is giving no hint that he will surrender to pressure and sign an agreement with the pro-independence ethnic Albanians that would allow foreign peacekeepers.

The chief U.S. negotiator for Kosovo, Christopher Hill, traveled to Belgrade on Tuesday night to present to Mr. Milosevic the international community's latest warning to sign a peace deal or face military action.

But President Milosevic refused to heed the warning, saying in a statement released by the official Tanjug news agency: "Our negative stand on the presence of foreign troops is not only the attitude of the leadership but also of all citizens of our country."

As the negotiating deadline — Saturday at noon — ticks closer, Mr. Hill flew back to France after the meeting with Mr. Milosevic, during which he heard the Serb, who is president of the remnants of Yugoslavia, reiterate his opposition to foreign peacekeepers.

Mr. Milosevic wants neither the NATO-led military presence, which has from the start been part of the international plan to settle the Kosovo crisis, nor the significant autonomy that the Kosovars have been promised if they will quit their armed struggle.

It's now Mr. Milosevic's hand to play. Western diplomats agree, if he doesn't

change his mind before Saturday, NATO could start air strikes.

If he relents, 60,000 troops in advance elements of a 30,000-troop multinational force — half of them U.S. Marines — are ready to move into Kosovo within hours of a signing, according to a top-level NATO decision made in Brussels on Wednesday.

To the Kosovars here, the closing drift of the talks may have been predictable. They feel slighted, taken for granted by the international community in their drive to bend Mr. Milosevic to their will. And they've still got questions about the deal, their partisans and advisers said Wednesday — notably their insistence on language opening the way to a referendum on Kosovo independence at the end of a three-year interim period, and also their reluctance to fully disarm the estimated 10,000 ethnic Albanian guerrillas in the Kosovo Liberation Army.

That, they say, is why they are resisting what the mediators would like immediately — agreement to the draft settlement as a way of increasing pressure for the deadline. Acceptance by the ethnic Albanians of the 60-page accord scripted by the six-nation Contact Group for Kosovo would throw entire responsibility for its unraveling on Mr. Milosevic and, if need be, serve as justification for NATO bombing.

Sources close to the Albanian delegation said here Wednesday that the Kosovars were being promised accommodations in the way the agreement would be implemented if they would sign the document now.

But when the time comes, a member of the delegation speculated darkly: "They'll say, 'Don't talk to us about implementation — what's important is you have peace.'"

Sources said the Kosovar delegation

wanted a provision in the agreement to create the core of a "national guard" or "self-defense force" made up of rebels now serving in the KLA guerrilla force.

Such an organized corps would assist NATO peacekeepers in monitoring the actions of people who might otherwise remain armed and at large, the Kosovars argue, and establish the basis for an indigenous Kosovo defense after the expiration of the three-year interim agreement.

Any Serbian agreement to such a notion is considered remote. Meanwhile, Kosovars were talking tough about provisions to disarm the guerrilla army in the province of 2 million.

"I don't believe in Western diplomacy," a KLA spokesman, Lirak Celaj, said to Agence France-Presse. "Nobody from the KLA is going to take their hands off their weapons until we liberate Kosovo."

That blunt talk in Kosovo was echoed by a member of the rebel delegation in Rambouillet. "We're unified here, but if we go back to Pristina and there's any letup in Western pressure on Milosevic, we may change our minds."

The "big worry" of the ethnic Albanian delegation, one adviser said, is that as the clock ticks toward the Saturday deadline — or in some sudden-death prolongation of the negotiation to follow — mediators "shopping a deal" with Mr. Milosevic will seek to extract further concessions from the Kosovars to rescue the settlement.

Such objections, along with Mr. Milosevic's hard stand, have contributed to gloom surrounding the talks.

"According to the attitude of Milosevic regime that we know very well, I don't think there will be any agreement," a KLA officer, Jashar Salihu, said at a news conference.

Tough Paris Sentence for Genital Cutting

By Marilee Simons
New York Times Service

PARIS — A Paris court has sentenced an African woman to eight years in prison for cutting the genitals of 48 young girls between the ages of 1 month and 10 years. The jury also gave 27 parents suspended sentences ranging from three to five years.

The trial, which was widely followed by the press and human rights and women's groups, was the largest of its kind in France, which began to prosecute so-called female genital cutting in 1991.

Lawyers said the unexpectedly tough sentence was a new and clear warning to France's large African immigrant population that their painful tradition will not be tolerated here because it violates the law against the mutilation of a minor.

The ritual cutting of young girls has become an issue throughout Western Europe as the number of African immigrants who practice it has grown, although France is the first country to take them to court.

In this and previous trials, French prosecutors have described the custom — widespread in many Muslim countries — as a barbaric habit that aims to control women by reducing or preventing their sexual pleasure.

The practice involves cutting off all or part of a young girl's clitoris and labia and sometimes stitching her vagina closed until marriage.

Doctors testified in court that the procedure often causes infections and painful scars and may lead to lifelong health complications.

The case on which the court ruled Tuesday has drawn much public atten-

tion because it was started by a victim, a young Parisian law student from a Mali family, Mariatou Koita, 23, went to a Paris judge four years ago to denounce Hawa Greou, who she said had cut her and her sisters when they were children.

Ms. Greou, 53, who is also from Mali, acknowledged the genital cutting and apologized at the beginning of the trial, saying she had intended to perform a service, not to do harm.

For her work she charged fees from \$30 to \$80.

The parents of the 48 children cut by Miss Greou were tried as accomplices. Most were from Gambia, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal.

Some of them testified that they had had their daughters cut to make sure that they would get a husband when they grew up.

BRIEFLY

Romania Seizes Miners' Leader

STOENESTI, Romania — The rebellious leader of Romania's coal miners was arrested Wednesday after clashes between paramilitary police units and miners that left one miner dead and dozens injured.

More than 500 arrests were reported.

The arrest of Mircea Cozma came as he and about 2,000 miners headed toward Bucharest, the capital, to protest an 18-year prison sentence handed down against him this week for his role in a deadly 1991 miners' protest.

President Emil Constantinescu thanked the riot police for stopping the miners from reaching Bucharest and "defending a state where the law is respected."

Mr. Cozma, who has led several miners' uprisings in the past decade, was taken by helicopter to the capital.

Interior Minister Dănuț Jonescu said he did not expect further unrest from the miners in the near future.

The miners' latest uprising started after Mr. Cozma was sentenced in absentia by the Supreme Court on Monday for leading a 1991 march on Bucharest. He and the miners said the sentence, increased from the 18 months he had already served, was politically orchestrated. They headed for the capital in 40 buses Tuesday from western Romania. (AP)

Warsaw Takes Step Toward NATO

WARSAW — The Polish lower house of Parliament, the Sejm, ratified documents Wednesday for joining NATO, one of the last formal steps for the former Warsaw Pact member to enter the Western alliance.

The entire Sejm, with President Aleksander Kwasniewski present as an observer, stood and applauded after voting, 409 to 7, with 4 abstentions, to approve ratification.

The Senate was to vote later on the so-called accession documents, which will be signed by Mr. Kwasniewski next week and then submitted to U.S. officials at a joint ceremony with two other NATO newcomers — the Czech Republic and Hungary — on March 12.

"Integration with NATO means integration with Western civilization," said Czesław Bielecki, chief of the Sejm International Affairs Committee, during debate. "The se-

curity of our country will be improved, and Poland's role in Europe and the world will expand." (AP)

Tashkent on Alert After Bombs

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan — Soldiers were guarding key buildings here Wednesday in the wake of bomb explosions.

The Ministry of Emergencies said the death toll from the Tuesday explosions had reached 15.

More than 130 people were reported wounded.

President Islam Karimov said the explosions were an attempt to assassinate him.

A special task force composed of Interior, Security and Defense Ministry officials was set up to try to determine who was responsible for the bombings, an Interior Ministry source said.

Some government buildings in the city center were badly damaged and the central Independence Square was cordoned off by police.

Witnesses said the police had set up barriers at entrances to the capital and were checking documents. (Reuters)

Gibraltar Rift Stalls EU Project

BRUSSELS — A European Union directive on air security has been scuttled by a dispute between Britain and Spain over the status of Gibraltar, according to European sources.

The directive, already agreed upon in principle last year, and later amended, needed a unanimous vote by the 15 EU member countries for final adoption.

But Spain has invoked an "exception clause" to prevent Britain from applying the agreement to its colony of Gibraltar, whose sovereignty Madrid contests.

The move is unprecedented in EU history, with Britain arguing that the exception clause does not apply to security issues.

The directive envisages common procedures for the control of third-country planes landing in member countries, with the possibility of inspections on the ground for planes that are clearly badly maintained. (AFP)

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NEW YORK FASHION

Utility Chic: When the Lowly Goes Lofty

By Suzy Menkes
International Herald Tribune

NEW YORK — What are the clothes that define a modern woman for the year 2000? The apron, the workshirt and overalls — but made in succulent materials.

Utilitarian elegance is the story at the New York fall-winter shows, where humdrum things designed for a humble purpose have been given an upscale spin. Among the lowly objects made lofty is the bed blanket, morphed into a cape or wrap, and the apron, from sequined jumper dress through tie-back skirts.

"It's elegance — but in another context," said Helmut Lang, who invented utility chic and filled his autumn show with motocross pants in supple silver leather, silk canvas dresses with shoulder holsters and overalls in organza. They were worn by models with pretty makeup, tidy hair, high heels and, as an ironic take on couture, a single elbow-length glove or a padded neck rest (as worn for air travel) forming a portrait collar.

Lang's urban, aggressive protective gear as emblems of coziness not so new. In the show he held in his modernist SoHo store, there were familiar elbow and knee pads, jackets slung from backpack straps and bikers' waist packs.

The designer's skill is in nudging his look forward, keeping the black that most designers are throwing out but playing subtly with fabric textures and introducing color as a splash of burnt orange or chalky white-shearing. Lang's futuristic sportswear for womanly warriors takes fashion fast forward.

Marc Jacobs proves that reticence means elegance in modern fashion. His tidy tailoring with fitted jackets fastened with big buttons, a coat with dainty flower-patterned lining and skirts with corrugated tucks all showed delicate couture touches — but applied to resolutely unfussy clothes.

There is still a whiff of the flea market in Jacobs's knee-high 1970s boots meeting mid hemlines, pants cropped crotch-length and striped sweaters in heather-colored cashmere. But each well-crafted



Helmut Lang's workman's overalls in a double layer of organza.

item was a blend of American sportswear with European chic and the show looked fresh, young and uptown.

An ode to the bed — with satin-edged skirts, complete with blanket stitching and label — was the British designer Hussein Chalayan's fashion take for the

Cashmere. Around a virtual reality fireplace glowing on a cuboid screen, marched models in cozy cable sweaters, felted dresses patterned with wood-knot marks and double jackets with asymmetrical collars.

The bedroom theme might have suggested sexy clothes. But Chalayan's modern sensibility made his cashmere-clad models, with their hair wrapped like helmets under the chin, seem graceful and sensual in a modern way.

Now that a new generation has reinvented utilitarian glamour, traditional designers are moving to the same beat. Oscar de la Renta opened his low-key but elegant show with a skirt and cardigan, both embroidered with crewelwork. Everything from satin parka through khaki cashmere sweater with silk faille skirt then followed the same dressed-down look — give or take the finale "Shakespeare in Love" gown with fur trim and Tudor neckline.

Carolina Herrera's look was also about casual luxury — say a pair of pants and a zippered top. So the jacket was made of sheared mink? Well, how is a girl supposed to keep warm on winter nights? The ultra-sophisticated dressed-down look worked well, because Herrera has parlayed her fashion femininity into tactile fabrics, from alpaca to double-faced cashmere, while keeping the silhouette sleek and simple.

Richard Tyler's glamorous look was about familiar styles softened with special fabrics: a dress in featherlight pashmina, a classic blazer in alpaca, a vest in felted cashmere and tweed coat twinkling with stamped-on sequins. Shown as a tableau of models with gleaming hair and lip gloss, the clothes seemed more for the West Coast (Tyler's base) than for dressing down New York-style.

So sex is out of fashion? Not for Vivienne Westwood. The British designer showed pert, pouting models in slapsly plaid suits and curvy dresses, fling about with Peruvian blanket shawls, marching socks and blue makeup. There may still be a market out there for cheeky miniskirts and hng-me-tight sweaters. But they look like yesterday's trend.

TribTech

LEISURE

ALT / Commentary

An On-Line Outpouring Helps a Family Endure

Advice and Prayers Flow for Leukemia Victim

By John Schwartz
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Gabe's gone. Though I never met the California teenager, and I feel that I've known his family for years. Thousands of people feel the same way.

Gabriel Catalfo's life, his struggle to bring the leukemia that was first detected in 1991 into remission and then his death in November all were chronicled on-line by his father, Phil. He posted his story on the Web, a Sausalito, California-based on-line community known for having some of the best discussions available on the Internet.

After introducing the notion of telling his family's story, Phil began posting messages like this one in 1991:

DAY 1: Monday, 1/17/91
At about 4:30 P.M., I was plinking away on my computer when I heard the door to my office open suddenly. A brisk wind blew in briefly, and I turned to see my wife,

Michelle, entering. In a slightly tremulous, half-whispering voice, she said, "I don't know how to tell you this, but Gabriel has leukemia."

Their athletic, robust, 7-year-old son had been complaining of abdominal aches and had grown pale. A blood test confirmed the cancer.

The drive home was cold and quiet, except for my head. I have to tell the kids. I have to tell the neighbors. I have to tell the whole freaking world. My son has leukemia. My son has leukemia. I have to tell somebody. If I tell everybody, eventually I'll tell somebody who can undo this.

In the ensuing years, Phil was unsparring in his detail about medical procedures, side effects of drugs and the everyday horrors of treatment.

In recent years we have seen an increasing number of first-person accounts of cancer. But in the nearly unlimited space of the on-line medium, Phil was able to go into a level of detail that I have never encountered in other accounts. His combination of clinical thoroughness, somber elegance and rich spirituality made his story riveting.

But just as compelling was the interplay between the storyteller and his community, the constant feedback from his many readers in comments, advice, praise and prayers.

Some of the comments were uplifting, some heartbreaking — and, as with any community, any family, some were boorish and inane, like those of the relative who visits you in the hospital and wants to tell you about his operation.

Gabe and his doctors did beat the cancer into remission, and Phil ultimately credited the outpouring of support from a network of friends around the world — most of whom he had never met — with helping Gabe, his parents and two siblings make their way through the ordeal.

It's like the scene in those movies where the bad guy rides into town and, in the climactic moment, the entire town shows up to quietly stare him down. The on-line community had

helped Gabe & Co. stare down death.

Phil kept us all posted about Gabe's subsequent ups and downs.

Last June the cancer was back with a vengeance.

Once again, Phil gave us insights into Gabe, a bright kid who, like his father, could say things that cycled rapidly from childlike to wise to heart-breakingly funny. Phil recounted Gabe's reaction when he was informed by his parents that the leukemia was back:

"I'm scared," he said. He called for his mom a couple of times, and she told him she was right there.

Then — within seconds, it seems — he calmed. "It's O.K.," he said. "I'm at peace. Don't worry about me."

That didn't settle everything, of course. Over the course of the following hours, he expressed disorientation ("I don't know how to live," he said about an hour later, as we were preparing to go out), fear, depression; and I'm sure those feelings will resurface. But overall, he has seemed, since that moment, remarkably, almost eerily, calm.

He asked about what happens when you die. I said we didn't know; Michelle pointed out that many accounts from people who've had "near-death experiences" report that "it's beautiful, a beautiful feeling, beautiful light. And there's no chemo there." That's right, I added, and no pain.

We continued discussing various things for a while. At one point he looked up at me, smiling through trembling lips, and said, "Hey, Dad, maybe you can write a book about me." You know I will, I said, weeping. And maybe you can write something too.

This seemed to lighten his mood. "Hey, this sucks," he said, smiling broadly. "I'm gonna die a virgin!"

THE GOODWILL flowed once again from the community of supporters. But I guess you're only allowed so many miracles per lifetime. Gabe died Nov. 4, at age 15.

In his eulogy, Phil said: "I am charging us all with the task of honoring Gabe's memory by being every bit as heroic as we agree he was. From this day forward, I don't want to hear only how brave Gabe was or even how brave our family is. I want to see how brave we all are. That's how we'll know we learned what Gabe taught us."

Anybody who tries to tell you the Internet is an evil place, that the friendships made there aren't real, that the people are fake — well, those folks just haven't been to the places I've been.

I wouldn't judge an unfamiliar town by its dirty-book stores or singles bars, and I hope that someday the people focused on the dangers of on-line life get to find the kinds of places where people like Phil Catalfo hang out — the kinds of places where the human spirit is affirmed and hope thrives in the face of despair.

John Schwartz is a science reporter at The Washington Post and can be e-mailed at schwartzj@washpost.com.

Cell-Phone Users Get a Spelling Shortcut

By Mike Mills
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — What's the biggest barrier preventing pocket phones from being used as electronic mail devices? It's those dreaded Touch-Tone alpha-numeric keypads. Sure, punching in a phone number is simple. But spelling out words is a headache, with each number key responsible for three letters — ABC, DEF, GHI, etc.

For instance, to spell "Call Me" on a Sony cell phone, one must hit the number 2 three times to advance from A to B to C, and then wait for the cursor to move to the next letter. The letter A also is on the number 2, touch once. The letter L requires three presses on the number 5, etc.

It takes 13 pushes of the buttons to spell just two little words. Imagine writing an entire e-mail message that way.

Some manufacturers have tried cramming a full keyboard into a wireless phone. The Nokia 9000 series has a clamshell design that opens to reveal a small screen and keyboard. The result is a phone that is too big and a keyboard that is too small.

A small, privately held Seattle-based company called Tegic Communications has found a way around the problem, not by abandoning the Touch-Tone keypad but by embracing it and making it faster.

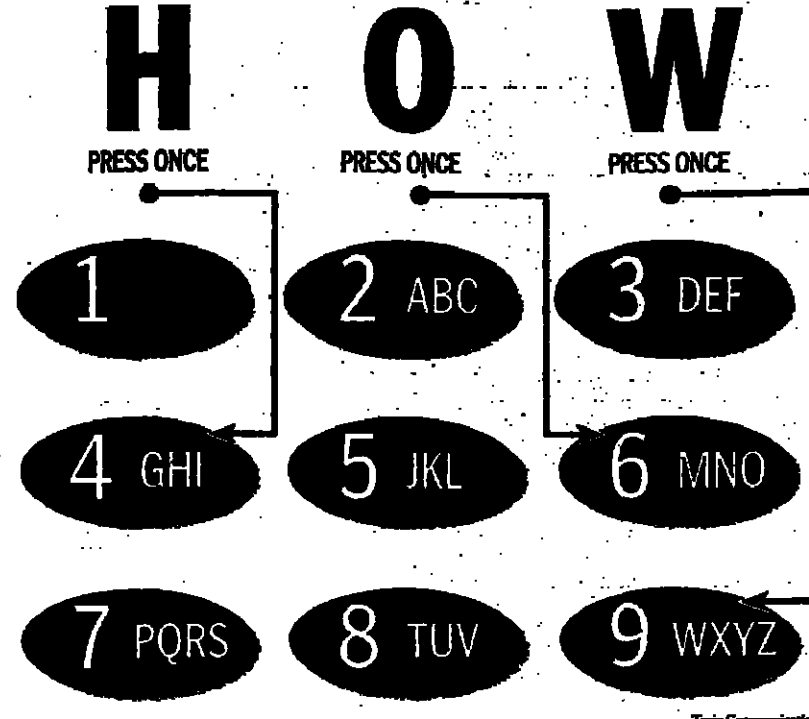
Tegic, founded by a trio of linguists whose previous work involved making it easier for the disabled to communicate, has developed advanced linguistic databases that vastly speed the process of spelling out words on a Touch-Tone keypad.

Its product, called T9 (after the nine buttons on a phone that spell the alphabet), is being rapidly adopted by makers of cell-phone equipment and will appear on many popular-branded phones in the next year. Nokia Oy, Motorola Inc., Mitsubishi Corp., Sony Corp., Samsung Co., Philips Electronics NV and others already have signed on.

Several phones on display at the wireless industry trade show this month in New Orleans employed T9.

T9 allows users to simply spell out the words they want by hitting each button once, without having to hit the key again to advance to the correct letter.

Rather than the six button pushes required to spell the word "how" (hitting the number 4 twice to advance to the H,



Tegic's T9 technology lets users spell out words they want by hitting each button once, without having to hit the key again to advance to the correct letter. It then picks the most commonly used word made up of those letters.

the number 6 three times to get to O and the number 9 once to get the W), the user simply hits 4-6-9. The computer chip inside the phone figures out that the user is going after "how" and sorts out the correct letters.

How does it know? It's all about writing software that factors in the most frequently used words in any language, said William Valenti, the Tegic executive vice president for business development. T9, he said, "disambiguates," or decodes, the keystrokes to make a highly educated guess of what the user is trying to spell.

"It's a set of rules on how words are made," Mr. Valenti said. The software sorts through millions of words from the Internet and ranks those that are most commonly used. "It's a living database that reflects how people use text."

But what if it's wrong? What if the user is trying to spell "home," and it comes out "good"? (Both are 4-6-3.) Or wants "me" and gets "of"? (Both are 6-3.) In those cases, the user would hit the arrow key on the keypad to move to the next most likely word. The computer ranks "good" as more often used than "home" and "of" before "me."

The technique still saves strokes: Spelling "home" without T9 requires eight button pushes; with T9 it takes five.

The technology works for more than just English. It's also available for Danish, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Korean, Norwegian, Portuguese, Spanish and Swedish. More languages are scheduled, including Chinese, Finnish and Japanese.

Tegic struggles with issues such as

whether to write software that puts word combinations in their grammatical context, rather than a popularity ranking, so that "me," rather than "of," would naturally follow a verb such as "call." So far, the company has refrained from employing such "context analysis" in English.

But grammatical context has been crucial to adapting T9 technology to Chinese. The Chinese State Language and Character Commission certified Tegic's character-recognition technology in November, making Tegic the first Western company to win such status. Other Western companies had attempted to graft Chinese characters according to Latin-root equivalents, which the Chinese rejected as "culturally insulting," according to Mr. Valenti, who is a former Chinese translator.

Chinese, like most East Asian languages, doesn't readily lend itself to word processing and e-mail. The multitude of characters doesn't fit on small, portable devices — and each character itself requires eight to 10 keystrokes. Tegic cuts the process down to a few strokes. Depending on context, for some words used in combination with others, the writer might not need to enter any strokes at all. Five phonemakers so far have licensed the Chinese-language version, Mr. Valenti said.

Tegic has patents on this approach, he said, which puts the company in a strong position to create a standard for typing in e-mail messages on the run. Tegic also is marketing nonphone applications, such as software that creates a touch pad on the screen of Palm personal organizers made by Qualcomm Corp.

Tegic's founders have not forgotten their initial focus. They have grants from the National Institutes of Health to adapt T9 technology for people with disabilities. Soon it will show up in wheelchair text-input devices and eyeglasses that allow people to stare at holographic letters in the lenses and blink to type characters onto a computer screen, Mr. Valenti said.

"We're all disabled when it comes to typing letters on a numeric keypad," he said. The T9 technology, he said, simply allows users to make the best use of "a universal interface that's always going to be there."

Mike Mills covers telecommunications for The Washington Post. He can be e-mailed at millsm@washpost.com.

Free-for-All in Britain, Where Web Surfers Needn't Pay

By T.R. Reid
Washington Post Service

LONDON — Eat your hearts out, all you fee-paying Web surfers. In Britain, you can cruise the Internet for free.

Dozens of Internet service providers have sprung up here offering unlimited access to the Internet, along with electronic mail and blocks of data storage space, all without charge. The trend is so popular that some established providers have been forced to eliminate their monthly fees to hold on to subscribers.

The emergence of free competition here puts a squeeze on America Online Inc., which had been the leading Internet provider in Britain, with 900,000 subscribers paying as much as the equivalent of \$34 per month.

This month, the biggest of the no-fee providers, Freeserve, signed up its millionth customer and passed AOL as the top Internet service provider. Other providers that do not charge expect to reach the million-subscriber mark soon.

In most places, the standard pattern for Internet access remains that users pay a monthly fee to a provider; a typical arrangement in the United States provides unlimited hours of surfing for \$19.95 per month. An increasing number of upstarts in the United States have offered free access, hoping to make their profit on advertising, but several have

recently failed. There are also free, advertising-supported e-mail services, but to get to them you first have to pay the monthly fee to your provider.

Britain's "free" Internet access is not exactly cost-free to surfers, because local telephone service in Britain generally includes a per-minute charge even for local calls. The connection charges run from the equivalent 6 cents per minute on weekdays to 1.7 cents per minute on weekends.

But until Freeserve came along, British Internet users had to pay those telephone charges as well as a monthly access fee. This is presumably one reason why only about 25 percent of Britons regularly access the Internet, compared with 40 percent or more in the United States.

Freeserve, whose address is <http://www.freeserve.net>, was introduced in September by Dixons Group PLC, the electronics retail chain. It was originally a way to get people into the stores, because you have to go to Dixons or one of its allied chains to get the free CD-ROM needed to access the service. But as the number of users skyrocketed, Dixons says, ad revenues grew rapidly.

Since then, several other stores, companies and organizations have started free Internet services. Customers sign up, register a credit card number for any on-line purchases they might want to make, and then call the provider's dedicated phone number.

Tesco PLC, a national grocery and discount chain, provides free service only to customers who hold a Tesco affinity card. But since the card is available to

anybody who wants one, this service, too, is basically free to all. The free-service systems plan to make their money mainly through advertising, but they also cash in on the complexity of the Internet. All offer telephone help lines for befuddled users, at rates of about \$1.40 per minute.

Although fee-based providers were holding their own for a while — evidence because consumers did not know

they could get a similar service free — the movement in Britain now seems to be strongly toward the no-fee providers.

The biggest breakthrough came last week when British Telecommunications PLC renamed its BT Clicknet Internet provider service to BT Clickfree and waived all access fees. John Swingewood, the phone giant's Internet director, said customers had demanded the change.

TECHNOLOGY INDEX			
Technology stock indexes around the world:			
North America	Tuesday close	Pct. change previous week	Pct. change year to date
Pacific Stock Exchange	477.28		+6.25
S&P Tech Composite	1,239.84		+6.13
Europe			
Morgan Stanley Eurotec	652.40		+6.86
Asia			
Topix Electric	1,566.41		+1.55

Source: Morgan Stanley, Bloomberg News

For technology articles from the past week, see TribTech on the IHT's World Wide Web site at <http://www.ihl.com>. Articles include:

- Old Satellites Give Russia Dangerous Blind Spots, Feb. 11
- Wired Up in Amsterdam, Feb. 12
- E-Trade Investors Sold Stock Before System Failed, Feb. 12
- Web Ads Anger Trademark Owners, Feb. 15
- Privacy and the Internet: A Trans-Atlantic Fault Line, Feb. 15
- Short on Money, a NASA Contractor Reaches Into a Museum to Replace Lost Booster Parts, Feb. 16
- Battling Microsoft, a Confident U.S. Ponders Post-Trial Sanctions, Feb. 16
- Profits Slump in Electronics, Feb. 17
- German-Born Scientist Takes Helm at Telexia, Feb. 17

To reach TribTech editors or to comment on IHT tech coverage, send e-mail to tribtech@ihl.com. International Herald Tribune

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BRIEFLY

'WATERMARK' ANTI-COPYING STANDARD: Five giants in the computer and consumer-electronics industries have agreed on a "watermark" standard for protecting digital movies and videos from unauthorized copying.

The agreement, announced Tuesday, reconciles two competing standards — one supported by International Business Machines Corp. and NEC Corp., the other supported by Hitachi Ltd., Pioneer Electronic Corp. and Sony Corp. The agreement among the five companies promises to remove the last major obstacle preventing manufacturers from bringing digital video recording devices to the market.

The companies said they expected the first significant application of digital watermarks to be in DVD — digital videodisk — systems. The new technology is also expected to be used to protect video distributed electronically by digital broadcasts and networks. An invisible, indelible bit of binary code, known as a watermark, will be embedded in every frame of a digital recording.

Dan Sullivan, the IBM vice president who oversees Asia-Pacific technical operations, said the watermarking would allow unlimited analog copies to be made on existing VCRs.

The concern with digital copies is that they are virtually perfect clones of originals, enabling unlimited copying without protective technologies in place. Analog copies deteriorate rapidly over each generation. (NTT)

SLATE IS FREE AGAIN: It was an important test of one facet of Internet commerce: Would readers pay an annual subscription rate of \$19.95 to read a magazine on-line?

Slate magazine, owned by Microsoft Corp. and edited by Michael Kinsley, which decided 10 months ago to charge readers \$19.95 a year, apparently decided they would not. In an e-mail notice Friday, the magazine said it would now be available free on the World Wide Web.

Scott Moore, Slate's publisher, said that paid subscriptions for content — except for sexually oriented material and investment advice — had not grown as expected. The number of paying subscribers, he said, was in the "high 20,000s."

Under the new arrangement, readers who pay \$19.95 a year will get e-mail deliveries and print-out editions and will have access to the Slate archives. (NTT)

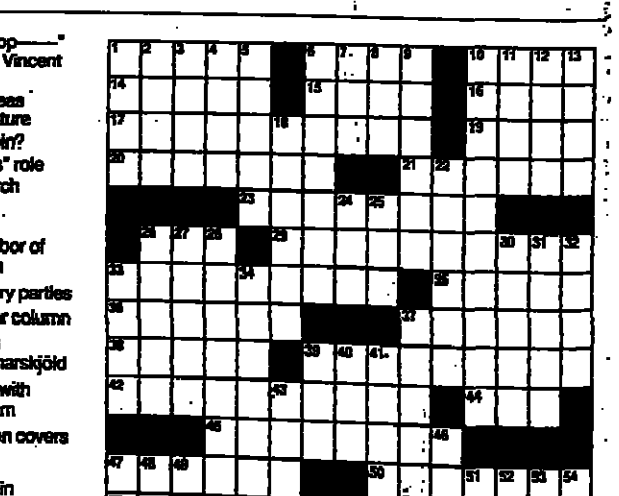
CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
1. Belle of the old
 2. Jackpot
 3. Michigan college
 4. Some are super
 5. One-named designer
 6. Pushes off
 7. Boney?
 8. Irish novelist
 9. They have black eyes
 10. Study
 11. Read (for)
 12. Peer Gynt's mother
 13. Amazed look?
 14. Places where it's sunny
 15. Quick
 16. Perselet
 17. Ax to grind
 18. Spanish folk song
 19. One in the minority
 20. Some social outings?
 21. Three times: Prefix
 22. Places for trinketmakers
 23. "Little Orphan Annie" henchman
 24. How not to run a business
 25. — Kong
 26. Fakes, in basketball?
 27. Artist Nolde
 28. Some needlework
 29. Cloth fold
 30. Technique
 31. Timeline
 32. Mongolian larks
 33. Neighbor of Sudan
 34. Country parties
 35. Ladgar column
 36. U.N.'s Hammarskjöld
 37. Suffix with Gotham
 38. Wooten covers
 39. Spot
 40. Maudlin
 41. 1954 sci-fi film
 42. Our genus
 43. "Idylls of the King" lady
 44. Humdrum
 45. "The Leaves of Life" being telling one by one?
 46. Restaurant bar?
 47. They're not baby boomers
 48. Former pol. entity
 49. Major record label

Solution to Puzzle of Feb. 17

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ELSA PINUP ZEAL
LORD PLEASE MAKE
HAL OYL LOSER
ALEUT PHILIP EDS
RINEPERSOINTAT
SEM WELTER YOUR
SEM IDES BETTE
YEARM BAW WOE
WYOGTHINKSIAM
BOMB HINDI SPAT
OREO IMPUN NETS
LENT STOPS TREK

- DOWN**
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 2. Poe for El Cordobas
 3. Saver
 4. Barely speak
 5. Turn forward or back, say
 6. Cyrus the Great, e.g.
 7. Metal precision
 8. Mail-bling events: Abbr.
 9. Land famous for 35 lyric poets
 10. Sweeney figure?
 11. Big deposit
 12. Barn often left at apartment doors
 13. "By yesterday"
 14. Bring by the truckload
 15. Utility woe
 16. Hosp. readout
 17. — Arc, Ark.



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FOR INVESTMENT INFORMATION
Read THE MONEY REPORT every Saturday in the IHT.

EUROPE

Cost-Cutting BP Amoco to Drop More Workers

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — BP Amoco PLC, the oil giant formed in a trans-Atlantic acquisition, said Wednesday that it would accelerate its cost-cutting plan and dismiss more workers after a prolonged slump in oil prices led to a 37 percent drop in fourth-quarter profit.

The company said profit from operations fell to \$875 million from \$1.38 billion a year earlier.

John Browne, chief executive, said BP Amoco planned to cut 10,000 jobs, 3,000 more than announced in August.

"Downsizing is difficult," he said. "But I hope and believe the process is being managed faithfully and fairly."

Mr. Browne said the company also would achieve its goal of saving \$2 billion annually from the combination of the companies in one

year instead of two. As a result, BP Amoco will take \$1.5 billion in charges in the next year instead of over two years.

"They have no choice — it's a tough environment out there," said Mark Horn, an analyst at T. Hoare & Co. "Earnings will fall further this year because of the oil price," which is hovering near a 12-year low.

BP Amoco shares closed down 16.5 pence, at \$40. BP Amoco suffered less than its larger rival, Royal Dutch/Shell Group, because of cost-cutting measures from years past and a stronger reliance on the European refining business, where margins improved. Shell last week posted a 53 percent drop in fourth-quarter profit after initiating a program to save \$2.5 billion by 2001.

In fact, some analysts said the BP Amoco earnings were surprisingly

strong. "These figures are fine," said John Tolstok of SG Securities. "They are one of the best set of results in the industry, even compared to Exxon."

BP Amoco said it had already achieved cost cuts and production increases that added \$500 million to profit last year and that \$400 million more in profit enhancement was planned for 1999, in addition to the streamlining related to the combination of companies.

Oil companies around the globe are suffering from a 38 percent plunge in the price of crude oil. Benchmark Brent crude averaged \$11.75 a barrel during the fourth quarter of 1998, down from \$19.02 a barrel the previous year.

Mr. Browne said oil prices were likely to trade between \$11 and \$17 a barrel for the foreseeable future

and that BP Amoco was planning for Brent crude oil to average \$11 a barrel this year.

"We don't believe that anything much below \$11 is sustainable for very long because the fundamentals of supply and demand would be disrupted by a lack of investment," Mr. Browne said. "But it's equally hard to see a rapid rebound of prices from current levels because of the extent of stocks."

At BP Amoco, operating profit in the oil exploration and production unit fell to \$420 million from \$1.70 billion. In refining, profit rose to \$506 million from \$423 million. Chemicals profit fell to \$125 million from \$133 million in the quarter.

BP Amoco said it had one-time charges of \$351 million, mainly to write down part of the \$750 million it invested in the troubled AO Sidanco of Russia. (Bloomberg, Reuters)

EU Executive Will Sit Out G-7 Meeting

Reuters

BRUSSELS — The European Union monetary affairs commissioner, Yves Thibault de Silgny, said Wednesday that the EU Commission would not take part in a meeting of Group of Seven finance ministers in Bonn this weekend.

Mr. de Silgny said the decision had been prompted by a dispute over how the 11-country euro zone would be represented at G-7 meetings.

"No commission staff will participate," he said.

The commission considers the representation of the euro zone is not being respected according to the agreement reached by heads of state and government.

European Union leaders agreed in December that the euro zone should be represented by three permanent G-7 members — France, Germany and Italy — as well as an EU Commission representative, a European Central Bank member and the chairman of the group of finance ministers from the 11 countries that have adopted the euro currency.

Mr. de Silgny said the EU executive had decided to skip the weekend meeting after being told by "third parties" that it should send only lower-level officials to the meeting as part of Germany's delegation. Germany currently holds both EU and G-7 presidencies.

"It is not for third parties to tell us who participates," he said. He did not make it clear to whom he was referring, but he said later he was "surprised by the reticence of certain partners of the European Union to see the euro zone represented."

Both the United States and Japan have made clear they were unhappy at the prospect of the commission taking part in the G-7.

Bonn Warns on Growth

Germany's undersecretary of finance, Heiner Flassbeck, warned that the current pace of economic growth in the United States would not continue and urged EU countries to strengthen demand to offset slowing global growth, Bloomberg News reported.

"It would be fatal for Europe if that American bubble burst now," he told the European Parliament's monetary affairs subcommittee.

Mr. Flassbeck also said he was not concerned about the euro's recent decline against the dollar.

Given the difference in interest rates between the U.S. and Europe, "a slight weakness of the euro is entirely normal," he said.

Special Payout EU Confirms End of Duty-Free Sales

Agence France-Presse

BRUSSELS — The European Commission on Wednesday rejected calls for an extension of duty-free sales within the European Union beyond the end of June, when the popular travelers' perk is due to be abolished.

The EU's executive body approved a report from the single market commissioner, Mario Monti, which concluded that any adverse impact on employment does not justify a temporary extension of the system.

"The abolition of duty-free will not have a significant negative impact on employment overall," Mr. Monti said.

The report concluded that job losses would be temporary, limited to specific sectors and more than offset by the creation of jobs elsewhere in duty-paid retailing. It is estimated that EU governments currently lose more than 1 billion euros (\$1.12 billion) a year in revenue as a result of duty-free sales.

The commission's stance represents a rebuff for Britain, France and Germany, which have lobbied hard for duty-free for a reprieve because of concern about job losses and a backlash from the public.

Opponents of the ban say ending duty-free shopping could eliminate 50,000 jobs and force up airline ticket prices by 30 percent, as airlines often share in the revenue from sales.

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As Profit Falls, Zeneca Reaffirms Merger

Reuters

LONDON — Zeneca Group PLC said Wednesday that pretax profit slipped 2 percent in 1998, to \$1.06 billion (\$1.73 billion) as sales rose 6 percent, to \$5.31 billion.

The British drugs and agrochemicals company brushed aside concerns that its planned merger with Astra of Sweden could be snaggled by concerns over competition as it announced what should be its final set of results as an independent company.

"Are we confident that the Astra-Zeneca merger is likely to receive competition approval in a reasonably

short time scale?" said Sir David Barnes, chief executive. "The answer is that continues to be our view."

Zeneca shares fell 19 pence to \$25.80.

On Tuesday, Astra announced that its pretax profit, including one-time items, rose 15 percent in 1998 to \$1.64 billion Swedish kronor (\$2.08 billion) including exceptional items.

Zeneca said that pro-forma figures for the combined company showed that pretax profit climbed 1 percent to \$3.46 billion on a 9 percent increase in sales to \$17.23 billion. Combined pharmaceuticals re-

search and development spending was up 12 percent to \$2.18 billion. AstraZeneca will have its corporate headquarters in London, research headquarters in Sweden and will report its results in dollars.

Sir David said he was confident that the merger would be completed in the second quarter of the year, despite concerns expressed by competition authorities in Europe and the United States.

On Tuesday, the European competition commissioner, Karel Van Miert, said the two companies had not addressed European Union concerns about the deal.

The commission called on EU governments to use funding available in the Union's structural funds to counteract possible short-term regional or social difficulties arising from the abolition of duty-free sales.

The commission said it would examine the possibility of developing a special financial program to tackle specific problems linked to abolition.

The report slams the duty-free industry for its failure to prepare for abolition. Turnover in the sector increased by 60 percent in the five years following the decision to abolish the system.

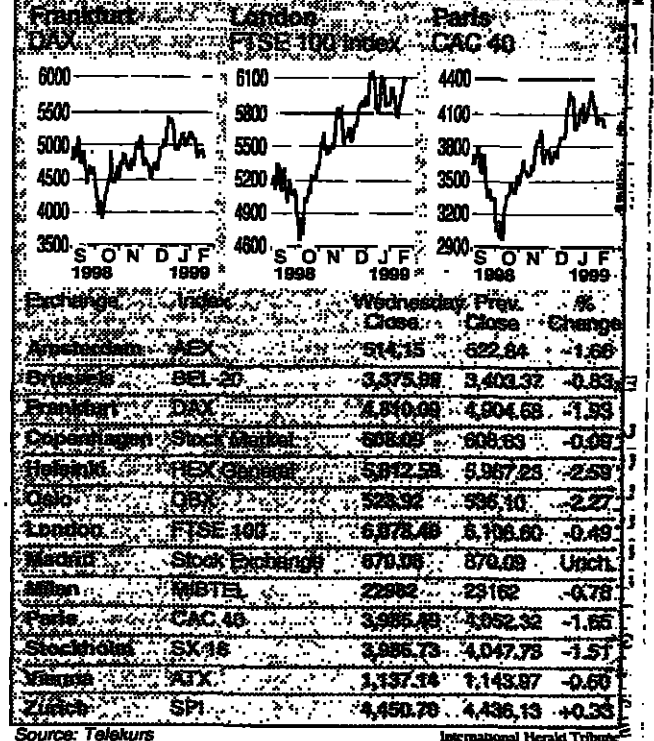
The decision to abolish duty-free on June 30 was taken unanimously by EU governments in 1991.

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Investor's Europe



Source: Reuters

Very briefly:

- Electra Investment Trust PLC, a British leveraged buyout fund that rebuffed a \$1.1 billion (\$1.8 billion) takeover bid by 31 Group PLC in January, is considering buying back up to 40 percent of its stock as a precursor to liquidating its assets if no one offers to buy the company for an acceptable price.
- WPP Group PLC posted a 20 percent rise in full-year profit to \$212.8 million. The owner of the ad agencies Ogilvy & Mather and J. Walter Thompson Co. predicted strong growth this year despite economic turmoil in Asia and Latin America.
- Saga Petroleum ASA swung to a big loss in 1998 and announced a "radical restructuring" including staff cuts to fight low oil prices. Battered by a 30 percent plunge in oil prices, the largest listed Norwegian oil company reported a net loss of 1.26 billion kroner (\$163.5 million) against a profit of 1.22 billion kroner in 1997.
- Christiania Bank ASA, Norway's second-largest bank, said 1998 net income unexpectedly rose 1 percent to 2.24 billion kroner as income from lending rose.
- ABC NCC, a Swedish construction company, said it was buying Superfos Construction AS of Denmark for 1.4 billion Swedish kroner (\$176.7 million), creating a Nordic leader in the sector.
- AB Scania's fourth-quarter net profit rose 7 percent, to 670 million kroner, as robust demand for trucks in Europe outweighed a slump in Brazil, the Swedish truckmaker's largest national market.
- Airbus Industrie plans to delay again the introduction of a 600-seat superjumbo jet because the European planemaker does not expect enough demand for the passenger plane before 2005, amid slow growth in Asia and overcapacity in other regions.
- Allied Irish Banks PLC's 1998 pretax profit rose 42 percent, to \$26 million (\$1.17 billion). The biggest Irish bank said it was looking forward to further growth despite signs of slowdown in several of its key markets.
- France's trade surplus unexpectedly widened 7.5 percent, to 17.2 billion francs (\$2.9 billion), in December as imports of metal machinery components fell, indicating a slowdown in economic activity, while exports of passenger airlines remained strong.

Bloomberg, Reuters

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Wednesday, Feb. 17

Prices in local currencies
in euros for EU countries.
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Markets Closed

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The Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong, Seoul, Shenzhen, Singapore

NASDAQ

Wednesday's 3:45 P.M.
The 1,000 most traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

Stock	Dr	Yld	PE	High	Low	Open	Close
IBM	110.00	4.5	15.0	110.00	109.00	109.50	109.50
Microsoft	56.00	3.5	18.0	56.00	55.00	55.50	55.50
Apple	45.00	3.0	12.0	45.00	44.00	44.50	44.50
Oracle	35.00	3.0	10.0	35.00	34.00	34.50	34.50
Sun	25.00	3.0	8.0	25.00	24.00	24.50	24.50
HP	20.00	3.0	7.0	20.00	19.00	19.50	19.50
Intel	15.00	3.0	6.0	15.00	14.00	14.50	14.50
Motorola	10.00	3.0	5.0	10.00	9.00	9.50	9.50
Verizon	5.00	3.0	4.0	5.00	4.50	4.75	4.75
AT&T	4.00	3.0	3.0	4.00	3.50	3.75	3.75

Alphabet	28.00	3.0	9.0	28.00	27.00	27.50	27.50
Amazon	18.00	3.0	8.0	18.00	17.00	17.50	17.50
Google	12.00	3.0	7.0	12.00	11.00	11.50	11.50
Yahoo	8.00	3.0	6.0	8.00	7.50	7.75	7.75
Comcast	6.00	3.0	5.0	6.00	5.50	5.75	5.75
Netflix	4.00	3.0	4.0	4.00	3.50	3.75	3.75
Spotify	3.00	3.0	3.0	3.00	2.50	2.75	2.75
Twitter	2.00	3.0	2.0	2.00	1.50	1.75	1.75
LinkedIn	1.50	3.0	1.5	1.50	1.00	1.25	1.25
Facebook	1.00	3.0	1.0	1.00	0.50	0.75	0.75

Twitter	1.00	3.0	1.0	1.00	0.50	0.75	0.75
LinkedIn	1.50	3.0	1.5	1.50	1.00	1.25	1.25
Facebook	1.00	3.0	1.0	1.00	0.50	0.75	0.75
Spotify	3.00	3.0	3.0	3.00	2.50	2.75	2.75
Netflix	4.00	3.0	4.0	4.00	3.50	3.75	3.75
Comcast	6.00	3.0	5.0	6.00	5.50	5.75	5.75
Yahoo	8.00	3.0	6.0	8.00	7.50	7.75	7.75
Google	12.00	3.0	7.0	12.00	11.00	11.50	11.50
Amazon	18.00	3.0	8.0	18.00	17.00	17.50	17.50
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Yahoo	8.00	3.0	6.0	8.00	7.50	7.75	7.75
Comcast	6.00	3.0	5.0	6.00	5.50	5.75	5.75
Netflix	4.00	3.0	4.0	4.00	3.50	3.75	3.75
Spotify	3.00	3.0	3.0	3.00	2.50	2.75	2.75
Twitter	2.00	3.0	2.0	2.00	1.50	1.75	1.75
LinkedIn	1.50	3.0	1.5	1.50	1.00	1.25	1.25
Facebook	1.00	3.0	1.0	1.00	0.50	0.75	0.75

Facebook	1.00	3.0	1.0	1.00	0.50	0.75	0.75
LinkedIn	1.50	3.0	1.5	1.50	1.00	1.25	1.25
Twitter	2.00	3.0	2.0	2.00	1.50	1.75	1.75
Spotify	3.00	3.0	3.0	3.00	2.50	2.75	2.75
Netflix	4.00	3.0	4.0	4.00	3.50	3.75	3.75
Comcast	6.00	3.0	5.0	6.00	5.50	5.75	5.75
Yahoo	8.00	3.0	6.0	8.00	7.50	7.75	7.75
Google	12.00	3.0	7.0	12.00	11.00	11.50	11.50
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Yahoo	8.00	3.0	6.0	8.00	7.50	7.75	7.75
Comcast	6.00	3.0	5.0	6.00	5.50	5.75	5.75
Netflix	4.00	3.0	4.0	4.00	3.50	3.75	3.75
Spotify	3.00	3.0	3.0	3.00	2.50	2.75	2.75
Twitter	2.00	3.0	2.0	2.00	1.50	1.75	1.75
LinkedIn	1.50	3.0	1.5	1.50	1.00	1.25	1.25
Facebook	1.00	3.0	1.0	1.00	0.50	0.75	0.75

AMEX

Wednesday's 3:45 P.M.
The 150 most traded stocks of the day.
The Associated Press.

Stock	Dr	Yld	PE	High	Low	Open	Close
IBM	110.00	4.5	15.0	110.00	109.00	109.50	109.50
Microsoft	56.00	3.5	18.0	56.00	55.00	55.50	55.50
Apple	45.00	3.0	12.0	45.00	44.00	44.50	44.50
Oracle	35.00	3.0	10.0	35.00	34.00	34.50	34.50
Sun	25.00	3.0	8.0	25.00	24.00	24.50	24.50

Sun	25.00	3.0	8.0	25.00	24.00	24.50	24.50
HP	20.00	3.0	7.0	20.00	19.00	19.50	19.50
Intel	15.00	3.0	6.0	15.00	14.00	14.50	14.50
Motorola	10.00	3.0	5.0	10.00	9.00	9.50	9.50
Verizon	5.00	3.0	4.0	5.00	4.50	4.75	4.75
AT&T	4.00	3.0	3.0	4.00	3.50	3.75	3.75

AT&T	4.00	3.0	3.0	4.00	3.50	3.75	3.75
Verizon	5.00	3.0	4.0	5.00	4.50	4.75	4.75
Motorola	10.00	3.0	5.0	10.00	9.00	9.50	9.50
Intel	15.00	3.0	6.0	15.00	14.00	14.50	14.50
HP	20.00	3.0	7.0	20.00	19.00	19.50	19.50
Sun	25.00	3.0	8.0	25.00	24.00	24.50	24.50

NYSE

Wednesday's 3:45 P.M.
(Continued)
The Associated Press.

Stock	Dr	Yld	PE	High	Low	Open	Close
IBM	110.00	4.5	15.0	110.00	109.00	109.50	109.50
Microsoft	56.00	3.5	18.0	56.00	55.00	55.50	55.50
Apple	45.00	3.0	12.0	45.00	44.00	44.50	44.50
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Sun	25.00	3.0	8.0	25.00	24.00	24.50	24.50

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HP	20.00	3.0	7.0	20.00	19.00	19.50	19.50
Intel	15.00	3.0	6.0	15.00	14.00	14.50	14.50
Motorola	10.00	3.0	5.0	10.00	9.00	9.50	9.50
Verizon	5.00	3.0	4.0	5.00	4.50	4.75	4.75
AT&T	4.00	3.0	3.0	4.00	3.50	3.75	3.75

AT&T	4.00	3.0	3.0	4.00	3.50	3.75	3.75
Verizon	5.00	3.0	4.0	5.00	4.50	4.75	4.75
Motorola	10.00	3.0	5.0	10.00	9.00	9.50	9.50
Intel	15.00	3.0	6.0	15.00	14.00	14.50	14.50
HP	20.00	3.0	7.0	20.00	19.00	19.50	19.50
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Intel	15.00	3.0	6.0	15.00	14.00	14.50	14.50
Motorola	10.00	3.0	5.0	10.00	9.00	9.50	9.50
Verizon	5.00	3.0	4.0	5.00	4.50	4.75	4.75
AT&T	4.00	3.0	3.0	4.00	3.50	3.75	3.75

AT&T	4.00	3.0	3.0	4.00	3.50	3.75	3.75
Verizon	5.00	3.0	4.0	5.00	4.50	4.75	4.75
Motorola	10.00	3.0	5.0	10.00	9.00	9.50	9.50
Intel	15.00	3.0	6.0	15.00	14.00	14.50	14.50
HP	20.00	3.0	7.0	20.00	19.00	19.50	19.50
Sun	25.00	3.0	8.0	25.00	24.00	24.50	24.50

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HP	20.00	3.0	7.0	20.00	19.00	19.50	19.50
Intel	15.00	3.0	6.0	15.00	14.00	14.50	14.50
Motorola	10.00	3.0	5.0	10.00	9.00	9.50	9.50
Verizon	5.00	3.0	4.0	5.00	4.50	4.75	4.75
AT&T	4.00	3.0	3.0	4.00	3.50	3.75	3.75

ASIA/PACIFIC

After Losses, Executive Shake-Up Looms at NEC Japan Firms

By Stephanie Strom
New York Times Service

TOKYO — NEC Corp., the world's second-largest maker of computer chips, is poised for a further boardroom shakeout less than four months after the company sent its prominent chairman packing in the wake of a military-procurement scandal.

The company refused to comment on reports in three Japanese newspapers Wednesday that Hisashi Kaneko, NEC's president, was on his way out as the company prepared to announce losses of more than 100 billion yen (\$859.4 million).

But NEC did little to quell speculation that change was afoot in the executive suite.

Koji Nishigaki, the executive

vice president in charge of selling the company's computer-systems integration business, was cited as Mr. Kaneko's likely successor.

But analysts were more excited by the prospect that Hajime Sasaki, the executive vice president in charge of NEC's semiconductor operations who is popular among foreign investors, would take the chairman's seat, which has been vacant since Tadahiro Sekimoto resigned last October.

Mr. Sekimoto invested the chairman's position, typically a largely ceremonial role here while decision-making power resides with the president, with great clout, a tradition that would be likely to continue under Mr. Sasaki.

Mr. Sasaki ran NEC's U.S. operations and is considered attuned to

the international demands of the business, including the importance of capital costs and strategic planning, concepts that are not always foremost among Japanese executives.

As head of the embattled semiconductor business, a business that has been rolled around the world by falling chip prices, Mr. Sasaki has won praise for containing a potential disaster. While NEC has also lost money on its semiconductor operations, the scale of the losses are smaller than those of competitors.

The company also said Wednesday it would release a revised estimate of its loss for the current financial year, which ends March 31. In October, NEC forecast a loss of 35 billion yen. Meanwhile, Moody's Investors Service Inc. said it had placed NEC's long-term debt

ratings on review for a possible downgrading.

Unlike competitors such as Toshiba Corp. and Hitachi Ltd., NEC has yet to announce plans to overhaul its business, but analysts are increasingly confident that it has a restructuring program up its sleeve.

They are talking about restructuring in a way that, in my experience, is quite new for NEC," said Scott Foster, a high-tech industry analyst at ING Barings in Tokyo, who had meetings with several top NEC officials last week.

The company has the weakest balance sheet of any of Japan's diversified high-tech giants, with its net debt, or liabilities that would be left over if the company spent all its available cash to retire debt, equal to 187 percent of its equity.

Reject Claim Of Dumping

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Top Japanese steel-makers said Wednesday that allegations by U.S. competitors that they are dumping exports in the U.S. market were "hard to understand" and "smacked of protectionism."

On Tuesday, five major American steelmakers and the United Steelworkers Union filed complaints accusing Japan and seven other countries of selling steel in the U.S. market at below production cost and home-market prices.

Washington announced last week that it had evidence that Japan and Brazil had illegally dumped hot-rolled steel. The new complaints, by Bethlehem Steel Corp., Gulf States Steel Inc., IPSCO Steel Inc., Tuscaloosa Steel Co., USX Corp. and the union, concerned a different type of steel, cut-to-length plate.

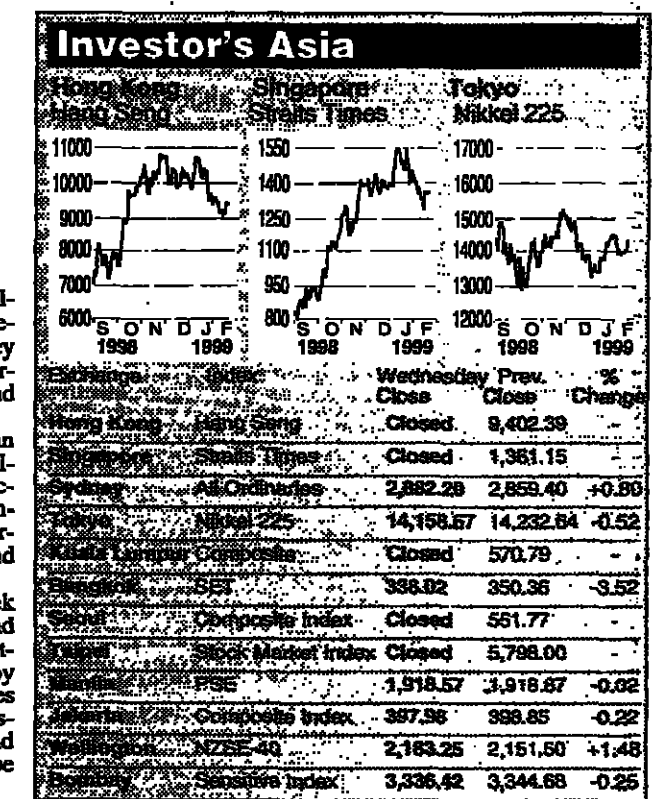
Nippon Steel Corp., the world's largest integrated steelmaker, denied the dumping allegation, saying it was "hard to understand what is behind the filing of the complaints."

The company also accused the American steel industry of calling for protectionist measures to solve its own management problems.

Nippon Steel often acts in behalf of the Japanese steel industry when a trade dispute emerges over its steel exports. Japanese exports of steel to the United States have become a major trade issue between the countries, with American steelmakers accusing several foreign companies of harming the industry with cheap imports.

The Czech Republic, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Macedonia and South Korea were also mentioned in the complaint Tuesday.

Separately, the Japanese Iron and Steel Federation said Japanese steel production fell 12.2 percent in January from a year earlier as exports to the United States declined. Domestic steel production fell 7.34 million tons. That follows a 10.6 percent drop in December from a year ago and is the 14th straight monthly decline.



Bank of Japan Softbank Trims Its Stake in Yahoo!

Errs on Report

Reuters

TOKYO — The Bank of Japan, whose policy statements are seldom models of clarity, sowed confusion Wednesday when it released and then retracted a draft version of minutes from a meeting of its key Policy Board.

About an hour and a half after news agencies sent a string of news flashes on what supposedly happened at the board's Dec. 15 meeting, embarrassed Bank of Japan officials said the minutes were a draft not meant for release.

The bank deleted the item from its Internet Web site and officials sought to collect printed versions from reporters.

"It's a simple human error," a bank official told reporters.

The final version contained numerous changes of wording and order of presentation but altered little of substance from the originally released report. A mention of a member having talked about the potential problems posed by rising yields in the Japanese bond market was deleted in the revised minutes.

Bloomberg News

TOKYO — Softbank Corp., a leading Japanese software distributor and a shareholder in dozens of Internet ventures, said Wednesday that it had sold a \$410 million stake in Yahoo! Inc. to finance new investments.

Softbank's U.S. holding company sold 3 million shares in Yahoo!, the world's most-visited Internet directory, reducing its stake to 28 percent from 30 percent and recording a capital gain of \$390 million. The one-time gain will pull Softbank from a deficit in the year ending in March, tripling its group profit to 32 billion yen (\$275 million).

The company, which has accumulated several billion dollars in paper gains on a series of early investments in Yahoo! and other fast-growing Internet services, said it planned to set up a new fund to add other on-line ventures to its portfolio.

"They've already won on their bet on Yahoo!, so lowering their stake to wage elsewhere is probably the right move," said Satoshi Hirachi, a software industry analyst

at Societe Generale Securities (North Pacific) Ltd. "They're throwing money at almost every Internet business with any sort of potential, and I think a considerable number will turn out to be winners."

The sale of Yahoo! shares will offset a drain on earnings from Softbank's U.S. publishing unit, Ziff-Davis Inc. Softbank expects to post a pretax loss of 15 billion yen before one-time items in the current year.

Softbank and 48 of its affiliates that contribute to group profit earned 10.3 billion yen last year.

The sale of Yahoo! shares raised concern among some investors and analysts that Softbank is struggling under a heavy burden of debt it has accumulated in recent years as the result of a string of acquisitions. It bought Ziff-Davis in 1996 for \$2.1 billion.

When it reported half-year earnings Nov. 11, Softbank said it had interest-bearing debt of \$42.5 billion yen and assets of 800 billion yen.

"They certainly have a lot of debt to service, and that may have left them with no choice but to sell some

of their stake in Yahoo!," said Yoshio Imanura, a portfolio manager at Tokyo-Mitsubishi Asset Management Ltd.

The rising value of Softbank's Internet portfolio has pushed the company's own stock up by 80 percent in the last 12 months and helped it to pay for stakes in an ever-lengthening list of on-line ventures. Softbank shares ended trading Wednesday at 790 yen, down 150.

As of last month, the company said it had paper gains of almost \$11.9 billion on investments in seven U.S. and two Japanese Internet companies.

Though it remains Yahoo!'s largest shareholder, Softbank's sale runs the risk of cooling investors' enthusiasm for Internet ventures, especially with many industry watchers warning that such stocks are extremely overvalued.

Yahoo!'s shares, which have increased in value more than eightfold in the last 12 months, tumbled 11.67 percent Tuesday in their biggest percentage fall since Oct. 1.

In Wednesday afternoon trading, Yahoo! was \$5 higher at \$138.375.

Very briefly:

- Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Group PLC, Britain's third-largest insurer, will offer to buy Tyndall Australia Ltd. for 738 million Australian dollars (\$467.4 million) in cash to expand its life-insurance and fund-management businesses.
- Thailand cut its planned foreign borrowing by 10 percent, to \$5.3 billion, in fiscal 1999 from a year earlier, slashing investment by state enterprises.
- Sumitomo Bank Ltd., Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd. and Sumitomo Trust & Banking Co. lowered their earnings forecasts for the year ending March 31 as they expanded plans to write off bad loans. The government is pushing major banks to write off bad loans to rebuild confidence in the industry.
- East Japan Railway Co., the world's biggest railway in terms of passenger revenue, cut its profit forecast 65 percent, saying it would assume the government's share of payments for a shortfall in the state railway pension fund. It reduced its forecast to 24 billion yen (\$203 million) from 68.8 billion yen for the year ending March 31, on sales of 2.49 trillion yen, 1 percent less than earlier forecast.
- Konica Corp. of Japan plans to shut down a U.S. unit and take a 24.2 billion yen charge, wiping out profit for the year ending March 31. Konica will close Konica Photo Service U.S.A. in East Hartford, Connecticut.
- The Asian Development Bank plans to provide \$1.52 billion in loans to Indonesia this year. It approved two loans for Jakarta last year totaling \$1.8 billion.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Bidding Unethical But Not Criminal

OLYMPICS A former federal prosecutor working on the Salt Lake Organizing Committee's investigation into the Olympics bribery scandal said she found no indication of criminal conduct.

While Salt Lake Olympic Committee, the U.S. Olympic Committee and the International Olympic Committee have been conducting separate investigations of ethical misconduct, the U.S. Justice Department and Utah Attorney General's Office have been looking for criminal violations.

Beth Wilkinson said she found evidence of ethical lapses, but no breaches of criminal law on the part of the bid committee.

"Some of their activities could be seen as unethical, but that's a long way from being criminal," she said. (AP)

Ali's Daughter to Fight

BOXING The youngest daughter of Muhammad Ali, the former heavyweight champion, is to fight professionally, the German newspaper Bild reported Wednesday.

Laila Ali, 21, who will fight in Las Vegas on March 19, said she was not deterred by her father's health problems. "He didn't take many punches when he was young," said Laila, the youngest of Ali's seven children by three marriages. "It was never proven that the Parkinson's disease from which he suffers was caused by boxing."

"The world expects something from me," she said. "I want to achieve what my father did, I want to win titles, to shake up the world." (AP)

Yanks Hire Mets Castoff

BASEBALL Tim Lincecum, the former St. Louis Cardinals catcher, was introduced Tuesday as TV analyst for the Yankees, who hired him two weeks after the New York Mets let him go. Some in Mets organization had been upset by McCarver's on-air criticism. (AP)

Swiss Qualifier Advances

TENNIS Roger Federer, a Swiss qualifier ranked No. 178 in the world, upset Bohdan Ustrich, 6-4, 7-5, Wednesday to reach the quarterfinals of the Rotterdam indoor tournament. Greg Rusedski, the No. 5 seed, reached the second round by beating Nicolas Pietrangeli, 7-6 (7-5), 4-6, 6-3. Jerome Golmard, who won the Dubai Open on Sunday, crushed Felix Mantilla, 6-0, 6-4. (AP)



Jerome Golmard celebrating his victory over Felix Mantilla.

'City of Sails' Prepares For the America's Cup

Auckland Expecting Huge Spectator Fleet

By Christopher Clarey
International Herald Tribune

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — "The City of Sails" is what Aucklanders call their community, and it is much more than a marketing slogan cooked up by an identity-hungry chamber of commerce.

Stand on the deck of the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron, the club that will play host to the next America's Cup regatta, and you can see nearly 2,000 boats moored in Westhaven Harbor. There are several hundred more across the way in Bay of Water, where a local boy named Peter Blake learned to sail in a dinghy long before he became a knight and a national role model.

There are several hundred more in Westpark; several hundred more in Half Moon Bay; several hundred more in Gulf Harbor and thousands more scattered among the myriad inlets and even backyards of New Zealand's largest city.

"The water is easy to get to here, and though boating is not cheap, it is not considered to be elitist," said John Cutler, a New Zealander who is sailing director for the challenger syndicate America True.

In all, there are an estimated 80,000 vessels in Auckland, one for every 11 inhabitants. A year from now, when Team New Zealand defends the Auld Mug it won so convincingly in 1995 in San Diego, many of those vessels will be in the Hauraki Gulf as a spectator fleet.

"They got 650 boats in San Diego, and we're looking at peaking at 5,000 to 6,000," said Tony Thomas, the America's Cup event director. "Can you imagine the atmosphere with a kind of diamond surrounded by boats, and inside that diamond are two America's Cup yachts having a battle. It will be like a stadium, a very full stadium."

Auckland is a long way from Cowes, the British seaport where the America's Cup was first contested in summer 1851. It is a long way from the northeastern seaboard of the United States, where the America's Cup was contested for well over a century. But for an event badly in need of rejuvenation after its litigious and uninspiring eight-year run in San Diego, Auckland is a fine place to start the healing process.

It will be the rough equivalent to staging an Alpine ski race in Austria or a football game in Dallas. And at least for the moment in Auckland, souvenirs for the country's most prominent sports team, the rugby union's All Blacks, have been pushed out of the display windows by paraphernalia hawking and hailing the merits of Team New Zealand.

"In San Diego, there were a few people who knew about the America's Cup and were excited about it, but the majority didn't care," Cutler said. "But down here, this is a substantial event. You go out to a restaurant or take a taxi and people just get right into the Cup."

Apparently, the public knows enough to ask for more than an autograph.

"You hear questions you don't hear anywhere else," said Kevin Hall, a Californian and prospective crew member on America One. "It's like, 'I don't even know the answer to that one,' or even, 'I can't answer that one.' Somebody asked me what our keel looked like."

It could prove difficult to keep a keel under wraps in Auckland. The syndicates will be working in particularly close quarters when the challenger series begins Oct. 18. Unlike in San Diego, all the yachts and their crews and support staff are expected to be based in the same location: the Viaduct Basin that has been transformed at the considerable cost of \$45 million from a relatively shallow

fishing basin into a world-class harbor.

When New Zealand won the Cup, Blake, the veteran sailor in charge of the successful campaign, knew he wanted this for Auckland, and one of the reasons he decided to wait five years instead of the customary three or four to defend was that he wanted Auckland to have ample time to prepare. Blake also wanted to capitalize on the year 2000 toopla and the synergy generated by Sydney being host of the Summer Olympics in the same year.

Though Auckland had a rich sailing culture, it lacked the sort of deepwater slips that America's Cup yachts require.

Now, that problem has been rectified, although the downside for the challengers is that rental fees for space in the America's Cup harbor exceed \$200,000, and that does not include construction costs, which Cutler estimates will bring the total cost well above \$500,000.

Syd Fischer, who heads the Australian challenge, has refused to lease space in the harbor because of the price, but most of his rivals have preferred to pay up and sail on.

"I think it's very reasonably priced space for what it is," Blake said. "If you want to go and develop your own site, there is nothing to stop you."

"But the costs are prohibitive. We're talking real money there: millions and millions of New Zealand dollars. Here the advantages are that the sponsors, the media and the public can see what's going on."

FOR THE moment, 15 syndicates are challenging for the Cup, although Blake expects no more than 12 challengers to be on the starting line in October. Prada, the well-funded and well-organized Italian syndicate, has already built its boat shed and headquarters. So has America One, whose skipper, Paul Cayard, won the prestigious Whitbread race last year in his first attempt but remains most passionate about this event.

Team New Zealand's headquarters, an imposing structure made of corrugated steel and painted black, has been operational since late last year, and in order to get past the front door, visitors must put a thumb on a high-tech scanner and hope the print matches.

Even if Team New Zealand downgrades, security will, as always in this event, remain a high priority. In early February, Chris Main, an Auckland working for the Japanese syndicate Nippon Challenge, accused a Team New Zealand support boat of ramming his inflatable craft as he observed the Kiwis train from a distance. The New Zealanders maintained that Main was violating rules that competitors must stay 200 meters (660 feet) away from each other's yachts.

Many of the challengers have been training here with practice boats during the Southern Hemisphere summer in an attempt to acclimatize themselves to the conditions they will face later this year.

Blake and Team New Zealand will be extremely difficult to beat in their home waters. They will not conduct the traditional defender's trials, preferring to unify their efforts and their sponsorship and to refine their boats until a challenger emerges from what should be a particularly grueling process if 12 or more syndicates are involved.

It is a calculated risk on Blake's part, and the man who helped spark a national celebration in 1995 is well aware that sporting popularity can prove as ephemeral as a yacht's wake.

"Our team doesn't want to have to go live in Rio de Janeiro forever, and neither do I," Blake said, a thin smile forming under his thick mustache.



LETTING FLY — Shoaib Akhtar, a Pakistan fast bowler, delivering a ball against India on Wednesday in Calcutta on the second day of the inaugural match of the Asian test series. Akhtar took four wickets for 71 runs as India was all out for 223 in its first innings, a lead of 38 runs. Sadagopan Ramesh, an opening batsman, was top scorer for India with 79. Pakistan then reached 26 for one wicket in its second innings.

Motorcycling's Master Takes a Break

By Brad Spurgeon
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — As most of motorcycle racing's leading teams began their last official winter testing in Jerez, Spain, on Wednesday, one competitor was missing. While the contenders are spending five days tuning their machines and honing their skills, the man they are chasing won't be there.

Mick Doohan, a 33-year-old Australian, has won the sport's most prestigious title — the 500cc class — every year since 1994. He took part in tests last month at Phillip Island, Australia, and broke his own lap record by a full second. He then decided to take a holiday before the season starts in April.

"I'm ready for the new season," Doohan said in an interview. "I'm motivated and enjoy what I'm doing and I'll carry on pushing myself I feel like this."

This is not how Doohan felt at the end of the 1993 season when he added a broken shoulder and a broken wrist to his collection of injuries, the worst of which resulted in having to have his right ankle fused. But none of that has stopped him from going on to win many world titles as only Juan Manuel Fangio did in Formula One, or three more Grand Prix victories than Alain Prost's record of 51.

But because Doohan did it all on two wheels rather than four, he does not have the same international acclaim of those car drivers. Not that the racer of 500cc motorcycles is ignored. Doohan was Australia's sportsman of the year from 1996 through 1998. His sport is popular in many European and Asian countries, and last year it was granted provisional recognition by the International Olympic Committee.

In the 500cc record books, Doohan lies second only to Giacomo Agostini, an Italian who won the title eight times, the last in 1975.

Doohan compared his sport with the more popular four-wheel type of vehicle. "With Formula One it's all about the atmosphere and the show, and the race is secondary," he said. "Our racing is a spectacle that keeps you on the edge of your seat."

Grand prix motorcycle races are neck-

and-neck sprints fought out on many of the same circuits as Formula One, but lasting about half as long. The 16-round championship takes place on five continents. Doohan blames the sport's lack of popularity in the United States on its "Hell's Angels stigma."

"Today," he said, "everyone from XYZ in the street to your chief executive of a major corporation rides motorcycles for leisure. We're not Hell's Angels. We're not sitting around taking drugs and we haven't got guns hidden inside our leathers."

In 1992, Doohan broke his leg during trials for the Dutch Grand Prix at Assen. The operation should have been routine but the leg became infected. The doctor recommended amputation. Doohan insisted on a second medical opinion and the leg was saved, but the ankle is permanently locked into one position.

Doohan said that had he won the title the season before the crash — when he was runner-up — he probably would have quit racing after the accident. The crash happened in June after he had won five of the first seven races of the season.

"Mentally I knew I was strong," he said. "If I could get myself back to being fit, I knew that I could beat the best of them. I had some unfinished business."

The locked foot is the one used to work the rear brake, so Doohan's mechanical technicians created a brake lever on the handlebar that he controls with his thumb. He rode the last two races of 1992, but lost the title by four points to Wayne Rainey, an American who was later paralyzed in a racing accident.

In 1993, Doohan broke a wrist, then a shoulder, but used the recuperation time for another operation on his leg. In addition to winning every world title in the 500cc competition since 1994, he has obtained a record number of pole positions. In 1997, with 12 victories, he beat Agostini's 25-year-old record for victories in a single season.

Like all racers, Doohan rationalizes the danger: "We run around a purpose-built street circuit with a lot of runoff, so it's quite safe. If you look at the IndyCar ovals, or the street circuits they run on in Monaco, we're running 300 to 320 kilometers per hour, almost 200 miles per hour, and the IndyCars are running at an average speed of 250 miles per hour on some circuits, and they hit a wall. So we're not too bad."

It was the safety worries of his parents that started him racing at age nine, after he was inspired to ride motorcycles by an older brother. His father was the manager of an earth-moving company in New Guinea, and the boys would ride their motorcycles around the construction sites and mines. His parents enrolled them in a dirt-bike racing club to keep them on a track, under supervision, and with nearby medical facilities.

Doohan is racing for the Repsol-Honda team again, the manufacturer with which he won all his titles, but he will not commit himself beyond one season.

"In any top-line sport these days," he said, "you get to where you've got on natural ability — then the work begins. If you want to succeed, you've got to take it to the next level."

Flyers Snap Losing Streak in Phoenix, 4-1

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — John LeClair scored Philadelphia's first two goals as the Flyers broke out of a four-game winless streak with a 4-1 victory in Phoenix.

LeClair increased his league leading goals to total of 37 as Philadelphia won Tuesday night. LeClair also assisted on the Flyers' other two goals.

Dmitri Tertysny, a Russian defenseman got his first NHL goal, and Eric Desjardins also scored for the Flyers. Keith Jones had three assists.

Nikolai Khabibulin, the Phoenix goalie, made 37 saves, but he was overwhelmed by the Philadelphia's offense, especially in the second period when the Flyers put 20 shots on net and scored on two of them.

England Appoints Keegan as Coach

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — Kevin Keegan was named Wednesday as England soccer coach for the next four games.

Keegan, 48, said he wanted to coach only through June so he could stay in charge of Fulham, a second-division club.

David Davies, the interim chief executive of the English FA, said the association would begin a search for a full-time coach to take over when Keegan steps down. Keegan has 18 months left on his contract at Fulham.

Keegan replaces Howard Wilkinson, who took over after Glenn Hoddle was fired Feb. 2 for controversial comments about the disabled. Wilkinson coached England to a 2-0 loss last week against France, the world champion.

Keegan played 63 times for the England. He led Liverpool to its first European Champions Cup triumph in 1977 and later led Hamburg to the Bundesliga title and was twice named European player of the year.

Keegan's only coaching experience before Fulham was at Newcastle, where he led the team to promotion to the Premier League. But the

club blew a 12-point lead and finished second to Manchester United in the 1995-96 season.

Keegan's Japanese soccer fans descended on Zagreb's Maksimir Stadium on Wednesday to watch Kazuyoshi (Kazu) Miura make his debut for Croatia Zagreb.

The Croatian champion opened the second half of the Croatian league season after the winter break with an easy 3-0 victory over Mladost 127.

Miura, 32, scored 54 goals in 86 appearances for the Japanese national team but was omitted from the Japanese World Cup squad last year. He joined Zagreb in late December after signing an 18-month contract.

On Wednesday, he missed a penalty in the 42d minute but set up Zagreb's second goal and showed flashes of technical brilliance.

He has already proved a marketing hit. The club sold television rights for the game Wednesday — a sporting event few people in Croatia would normally be interested in — to a Japanese television network and the club is in talks for the rights for the rest of the season.



The Japanese star Kazu Miura, left, of Croatia Zagreb, showing off his skills Wednesday against Mladost 127.

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SPORTS

Jazz Can't Find the Beat And Sonics Play Tutor

Utah Scores Just 56 Points as Payton Leads Seattle

The Associated Press
In a matchup of unbeaten teams, Gary Payton had 17 points and 11 rebounds to lead the Seattle SuperSonics to a 71-56 victory over the visiting Utah Jazz, who produced the second-lowest point total in a National Basketball Association regular-season game since the 24-second shot clock was instituted in 1954.

"We looked like we never played a game together," said Jerry Sloan, the Utah coach.

The Indiana Pacers managed just 55 points against the Spurs last March 29. Utah scored

54 points last year in Game 3 of the NBA Finals against Chicago.

The Jazz were playing Tuesday night without their starting guard, Jeff Hornacek, who was attending the funeral of a friend. Utah shot just 21-for-68 (30.9 percent) from the field.

Utah's overtime victory over Sacramento on Monday apparently took its toll on the Jazz, especially on the 36-year-old Karl Malone and the 37-year-old John Stockton. Malone led the Jazz with 15 points on 4-for-13 shooting and Stockton was 1-for-7 and scored three points.

"We saw a team playing back-to-back games and we wanted to take advantage of them," said Olen Robertson, the Sonics' center. Stockton didn't buy it.

"No one complained about fatigue," he said. "Minutes are shared pretty well so there was no reason to be exhausted." A frustrated Malone was given a technical foul 4:01 into the second half.

Kobe Bryant, 25, scored 25 points, while player New York acquired for Charles O'Neal, helped spoil O'Neal's return to Madison Square Garden with a season-high 11 points and 12 rebounds.

Bucks 93, 76ers 82 Glenn Robinson sank an 18-footer with one-tenth of a second left to keep Milwaukee in first place in the Central Division with a victory at Philadelphia. Robinson finished with 18 points, while Allan Iverson scored 23 for the 76ers.

Notes 97, Pistons 82 Keith Van Horn scored a career-high 35 points as New Jersey snapped a three-game losing streak. Grant Hill led visiting Detroit with 22 points.

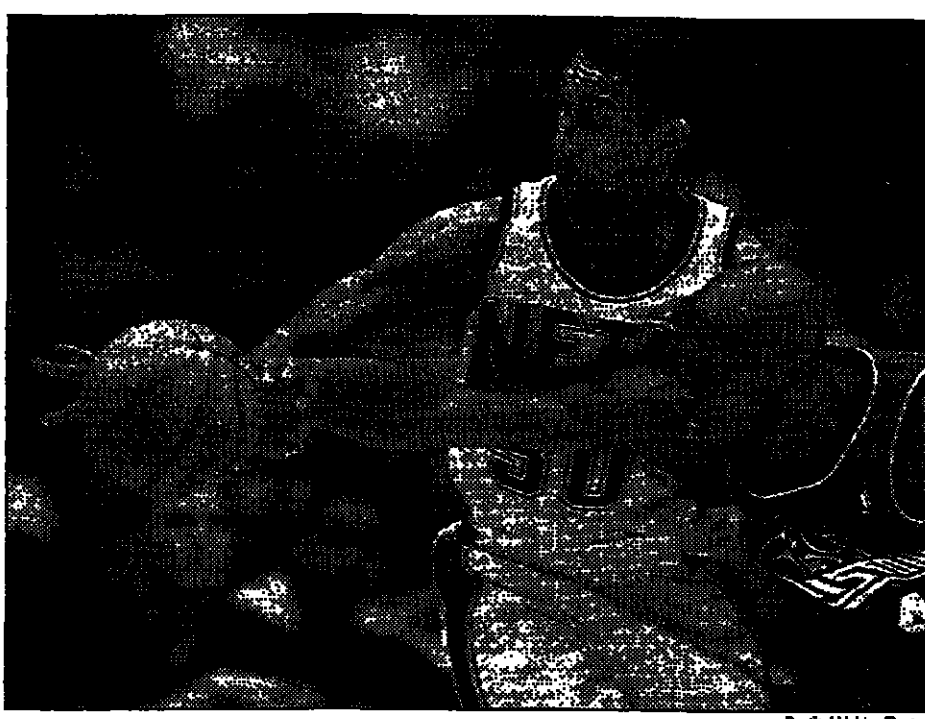
Cavaliers 90, Magic 78 In Cleveland, Vitaly Potapenko, replacing the injured center Zydrunas Ilgauskas, scored 16 points as the Cavs won their third straight game.

Heat 89, Pacers 78 P. J. Brown broke out of a scoring slump with a season-high 22 points and Alonzo Mourning added 19 points to carry Miami to victory at Indiana.

Nets 83, Bulls 67 In Chicago, Steve Smith led Atlanta with 17 points and Alan Henderson had 14 as the Hawks beat the Bulls for the second time in a week. Toni Kukoc paced the Bulls with 27 points and 10 rebounds.

Rockets 109, Suns 82 In Houston, Otella Harrington had no problem filling in for the injured Charles Barkley as he scored 17 points and 13 rebounds to lead the Rockets to their fifth straight victory.

Kings 101, Cobles 98 In Sacramento, Corliss Williamson's short jumper with 7.5 seconds remaining and his free throw to complete the three-point play lifted the Kings.



Jerry Stackhouse of the Pistons, right, trying to steal the ball from Kerry Kittles.

Grizzlies 93, Clippers 89 In Los Angeles, Sam Mack stole a pass and scored a lay-up in the second overtime session as Vancouver beat the winless Clippers in Los Angeles.

Mack finished with 22 points and Shareef Abdur-Rahim added 20 for Vancouver.

Lakers 118, Hornets 88 Shaquille O'Neal and Rick Fox each scored 20 points in what might be the Lakers' final game this year without Dennis Rodman on the team.

Bobby Phillips scored 20 points and J.R. Reid had 13 points and eight rebounds for visiting Charlotte.

Rodman Keeps Lakers at the Altar

Dennis Rodman called Jerry West, the Los Angeles Lakers' executive vice president, and

told him that he wouldn't make a final decision about signing with the Lakers until he discussed the matter with Carmen Electra, the actress he married in Las Vegas and to whom he apparently only rarely speaks to, the Los Angeles Times reported.

As of Tuesday night, Rodman had not gotten back to the Lakers, who have offered him a contract for this season at \$1 million — prorated to \$600,000 for the shortened campaign. "He'll probably try to make his debut during a nationally televised game," said O'Neal. "Marketing-wise, that'll probably be a good thing to do."

The Lakers' next national TV game is Friday night when they host the San Antonio Spurs — one of Rodman's old teams.

Signings Aplenty In Offseason NFL

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Browns, who left themselves far under the salary cap by limiting themselves generally to young players in the expansion draft, added three players, led by the linebacker Chris Spielman.

Spielman, 33, did not play in 1998 because his wife was being treated for breast cancer. Stefanie Spielman is now cancer free. The Browns acquired Spielman from Buffalo for past considerations.

The Browns also signed the offensive tackle Orlando Brown and the cornerback Corey Fuller on Tuesday. Brown, who reportedly signed a seven-year, \$26 million deal, was one of four Baltimore Ravens players signed by other teams.

The New York Jets agreed to terms with a pair of Baltimore players, the tight end Eric Green and the defensive end Mike Frederick. The defensive tackle James Jones, who spent three seasons with the Ravens, signed with the Detroit Lions.

The Jacksonville Jaguars signed Kyle Brady to an offer sheet that would make him the highest-paid tight end in the National Football League. The Jets have seven days to

match the five-year, \$14.2 million offer.

The Philadelphia Eagles agreed to contracts with the receivers Charles Johnson and Torrance Small. Johnson, who spent five seasons with the Pittsburgh Steelers, signed a five-year, \$15 million contract, and Small, who played for the Indianapolis Colts, signed a four-year, \$9 million deal, according to their agents.

The Denver Broncos agreed to terms with the former Kansas City Chiefs' cornerback Dale Carter.

Robert Edwards, the New England Patriots' rookie running back who was injured at the Pro Bowl, may never play again, according to doctors who operated on his left knee Tuesday. Doctors discovered nerve damage in his lower leg while performing the surgery.

Edwards rushed for 1,115 yards last season but injured himself in a beach-football game in Honolulu. The rookie is to miss the 1999 season.

Doctors were able to repair damage done to four knee ligaments, but also found the nerve damage, the team said in a statement. Dr. Bertram Zarins said he was pessimistic about Edwards' playing again, but did not rule it out.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	2	2	.500	0
New York	4	2	.667	1/2
Philadelphia	4	2	.667	1/2
Atlanta	4	2	.667	1/2
Charlotte	2	4	.333	2 1/2
Washington	2	4	.333	2 1/2

CENTRAL DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	4	1	.800	0
Indiana	3	2	.600	1/2
Cleveland	3	2	.600	1/2
Detroit	3	2	.600	1/2
Chicago	1	5	.167	3 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NORTHWEST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	1	5	.167	0
Houston	1	5	.167	0
Minnesota	4	2	.667	1 1/2
San Antonio	4	2	.667	1 1/2
Vancouver	2	3	.400	2 1/2
Dallas	1	6	.143	3 1/2
Denver	1	6	.143	3 1/2

PACIFIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	6	0	1.000	0
Portland	3	2	.600	1/2
L.A. Lakers	4	2	.667	1/2
Phoenix	4	2	.667	1/2
Sacramento	3	3	.500	1
Oakland	2	5	.286	2 1/2
L.A. Clippers	0	6	.000	3 1/2

FOOTBALL

NFL STANDINGS

AFC

AFC EAST

Team	W	L	T	Pct
Buffalo	1	1	0	.500
New York Jets	1	1	0	.500
San Diego	1	1	0	.500
Denver	1	1	0	.500

AFC NORTH

Team	W	L	T	Pct
Pittsburgh	1	1	0	.500
Cincinnati	1	1	0	.500
Cleveland	1	1	0	.500
Baltimore	1	1	0	.500

AFC SOUTH

Team	W	L	T	Pct
Indianapolis	1	1	0	.500
Atlanta	1	1	0	.500
Carolina	1	1	0	.500
Tennessee	1	1	0	.500

AFC WEST

Team	W	L	T	Pct
San Francisco	1	1	0	.500
Seattle	1	1	0	.500
Los Angeles	1	1	0	.500
Denver	1	1	0	.500

BASEBALL

NBA STANDINGS

NATIONAL LEAGUE

NATIONAL EAST

Team	W	L	Pct
Atlanta	1	1	.500
Florida	1	1	.500
Montreal	1	1	.500
Philadelphia	1	1	.500

NATIONAL WEST

Team	W	L	Pct
Los Angeles	1	1	.500
San Diego	1	1	.500
San Francisco	1	1	.500
Seattle	1	1	.500

ICE HOCKEY

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pct
Philadelphia	2	1	1	.667
Pittsburgh	2	1	1	.667
New York	2	1	1	.667
N.Y. Rangers	2	1	1	.667
N.Y. Islanders	1	2	1	.500

NORTHEAST DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pct
Ottawa	2	1	1	.667
Toronto	2	1	1	.667
Buffalo	2	1	1	.667
Boston	2	1	1	.667
Montreal	1	2	1	.500

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pct
Carolina	2	1	1	.667
Florida	2	1	1	.667
Washington	2	1	1	.667
Tampa Bay	1	2	1	.500

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pct
Detroit	2	1	1	.667
St. Louis	2	1	1	.667
Edmonton	2	1	1	.667
Calgary	2	1	1	.667
Vancouver	1	2	1	.500

NORTHWEST DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pct
Colorado	2	1	1	.667
San Jose	2	1	1	.667
Phoenix	2	1	1	.667
Anaheim	2	1	1	.667
Los Angeles	1	2	1	.500

U.S. COLLEGE SCORES

TUESDAY RESULTS

FOOTBALL

MAINE

Team	W	L	T	Pct
Col. Connecticut	2	1	1	.667
Col. Michigan	2	1	1	.667
Col. Florida	2	1	1	.667
Col. Texas	2	1	1	.667
Col. Virginia	2	1	1	.667

LEADING COLLEGES

Team	W	L	T	Pct
Col. Connecticut	2	1	1	.667
Col. Michigan	2	1	1	.667
Col. Florida	2	1	1	.667
Col. Texas	2	1	1	.667
Col. Virginia	2	1	1	.667

WOMEN

TOP 25

Team	W	L	T	Pct
Col. Connecticut	2	1	1	.667
Col. Michigan	2	1	1	.667
Col. Florida	2	1	1	.667
Col. Texas	2	1	1	.667
Col. Virginia	2	1	1	.667

EUROLEAGUE

Team	W	L	T	Pct
Col. Connecticut	2	1	1	.667
Col. Michigan	2	1	1	.667
Col. Florida	2	1	1	.667
Col. Texas	2	1	1	.667
Col. Virginia	2	1	1	.667

CRICKET

INDIA VS. PAKISTAN

Team	W	L	T	Pct
Col. India	2	1	1	.667
Col. Pakistan	2	1	1	.667

NEW ZEALAND VS. SOUTH AFRICA

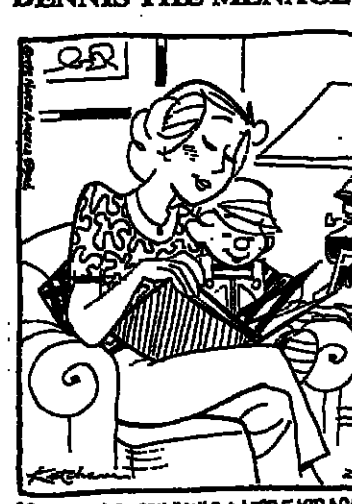
Team	W	L	T	Pct
Col. New Zealand	2	1	1	.667
Col. South Africa	2	1	1	.667

SOCCER

ENGLAND VS. ITALY

Team	W	L	T	Pct
Col. England	2	1	1	.667
Col. Italy	2	1	1	.667

DENNIS THE MENACE



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by David Booth and John H. Johnson

Use the letters in the word below to make as many words as you can. Write them in the spaces provided. (Don't forget to use the letters in the word itself.)

Word: **BISCA**

Words: **SOLANG**

Words: **RITHIEH**

Words: **...**

Words: **...**

Words: **...**

Words: **...**

Words: **...**

Words: **...**

Words: **...**

Words: **...**

Words: **...**

Words: **...**

Words: **...**

Words: **...**

Words: **...**

Words: **...**

ART BUCHWALD

No News Is Good News

NEW YORK — I don't know if you noticed it, but there is no foreign news in the United States anymore. Someone has decided Americans aren't interested in what is happening overseas.

The editors are guessing we would much rather know about events in Washington and Hollywood.

Ordinarily, this could be a problem because Americans should be well-informed as to what is going on all over the globe. Instead, that time on the news is devoted to a new pill for seasickness. While on the one hand this is a downer, there is a big plus in not knowing what is going on. If you are not aware of a crisis, it is not a crisis. Take the country of Dimbledee. Its government has been overthrown three times this year. The North has attacked the South, the East has attacked the West. There are refugees everywhere, food is in short supply, and there are reports of typhoons coming in from the Atlantic.

None of this has reached any of the evening news shows because of the Monica Lewinsky-Bill Clinton scandal. But a few in Washington are concerned.

Doug Bibby of the CIA says to his team, "Should we release the details of what is going on in Dimbledee?"

His aide says, "The State Department insists we keep it secret. If what is going on there gets out, we'll have to do something about it. If nobody knows, then we don't have to act."

"Are you telling me that our foreign policy is to sweep everything under the rug so that we're not obligated to prevent something from happening that has already happened?"

"That's the policy. The way to avoid another Vietnam is not to know Vietnam is a major threat. Fortunately, the American people no longer care what is going on in the world unless it affects the price of coffee or Hondas."

"It makes sense. Then mum's the word. We'll feed the networks more stuff on the Salt Lake City Olympics scandal."



Buchwald

Pause at Radio City Music Hall

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Radio City Music Hall, home of the high-kicking Rockettes and a tourist draw for two million visitors a year, has closed for a seven-month, \$60 million renovation. The landmark art-deco theater is scheduled to reopen in October, in time for the Rockettes' annual Christmas show, a spokeswoman said.

The spokeswoman declined to offer details of the renovation, but said they would include efforts to comply with federal laws meant to protect people with disabilities.

The owners and operators of the theater have been sued by the U.S. attorney's office in New York City, which says the hall is not accessible to the handicapped. To settle the civil action, the owners agreed to install wheelchair and companion-seating spots, and add sound-enhancing devices, among other improvements.

Skullduggery in New Orleans 'Cities of the Dead'

By Patricia Leigh Brown
New York Times Service

NEW ORLEANS — On an atmospherically moody day, with rain dripping off the muscadine vines and a concerto by Respighi wafting through the living room, Peter Patout, an antique dealer, was cosseted in the splendor of his Bourbon Street home. There amid Paris porcelain and ancestral oils in gilt frames, he gave his version of the insidious crime that has made him one of the most talked-about men in the city: conspiring to steal cemetery ornaments from hallowed tombs.

"The thieves are in jail," said Patout, a descendant of sugar planters, who is out on bail. "I've been arrested four times. Would you like some Patout sugar in your coffee?"

Around New Orleans, there is the smell of a rat amid the scent of sweet olive. It was in Patout's secluded courtyard, lush with banana trees of deep Louisiana lineage, that detectives seized two funerary statues, including a \$50,000 marble Madonna. The New Orleans police say they were part of a cache of more than 200 — and counting — romantically patinated urns, angels and Blessed Mothers plundered by thieves last year from the marble tombs and granite sarcophagi that populate New Orleans' legendary "cities of the dead."

The investigation, which started with four arrests in April, has implicated respected antique dealers who the police say were operating a ring that stole cemetery artifacts to sell to passionate collectors who pay thousands of dollars for moss-covered garden ornaments and benches with evocative rust.

The police have recovered statuary valued at more than \$1 million, and they say that is only one-tenth of the booty. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has entered the case, which has moved on to Los Angeles, and might include New York.

Even in this Gothic-appreciative city, where gossip unfolds like drapery and Anne Rice is a tourist

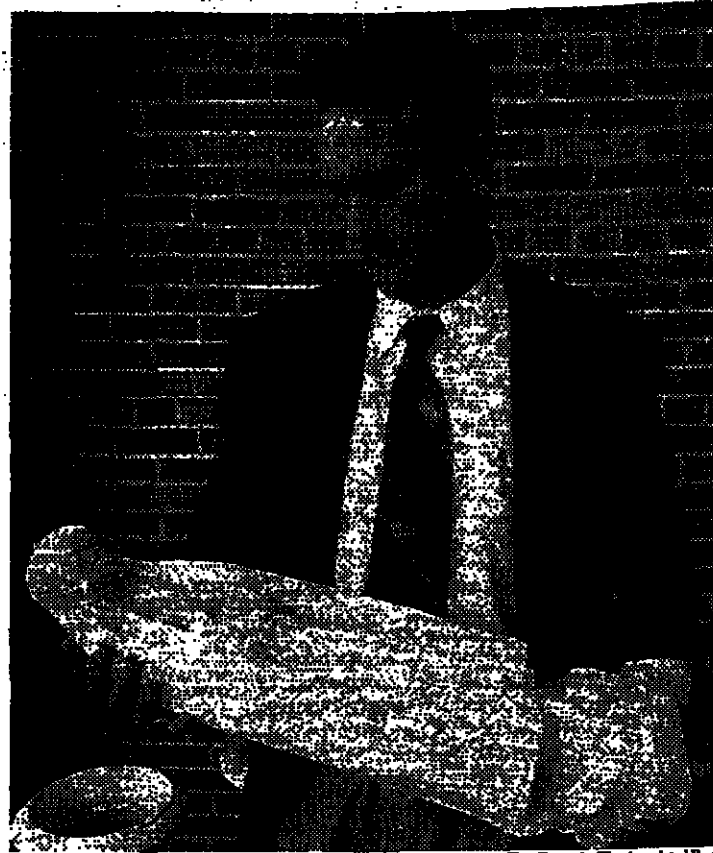
industry, the dark specter of grave robbers cruising the city's cemeteries with hammers and chisels has sent a shudder through town. New Orleans, that liveliest of cities, holds its 31 historic graveyards dear. It is a place where a literary journal is named *Exquisite Corpse*, where tombs have their own audio tours and a bus stop is named *Cemeteries*.

The thefts tap into two New Orleans obsessions: antiquities and ancestor-worship. "The dead are not forgotten in New Orleans," said Randolph Delehan, director of the University of New Orleans Ogden Museum of Art and a co-author of "New Orleans: Elegance and Decadence." "Other places in America have made death an anti-septic phenomenon. But among New Orleans families tombs have primitive power."

Among the prominent victims were the restaurateur Ted Brennan, who lost a Mother Cabrini statue commissioned by his mother for his father's tomb, and Lucille Prima, a relative of the jazz legend Louis Prima. But the sense of outrage is widely felt. Cherished French and Italian marble sculptures were pried off tombs that resemble elegant funerary mansions, expressions of the unique New Orleans way of death. For more than 200 years the dearly departed have been interred above ground to keep them from floating away with the waterlogged soil, successive generations pushing old bones to the back of the tomb to make way for new ones.

Along Royal Street and Magazine Street, the faded antique thoroughfares where many stolen ornaments were seized in police raids, Mardi Gras beads cannot disguise a paranoid mood. Dealers say that kneeling crying angels are out, cavorting Bacchuses are in.

"Last year it would have been, 'Isn't this pretty?'" said Stephen Moses, president of Neal Auction Co., referring to the large urns, in exquisite decay, that occasionally cross his threshold. "Now it's, 'I wonder if it's been stolen.'"



Detective Lawrence Green with one of the stolen ornaments.

The theft ring began to unravel a year ago when a groundskeeper at Lake Lawn Metairie Cemetery spotted a van moving slowly from tomb to tomb. He took down the license plate number. The van sped away, leaving a tall marble angel awry on its pedestal. The van's owner was eventually arrested and gave up three accomplices.

Around the same time, Tom Bate, a New Orleans-born contractor living in Los Angeles, noticed what appeared to be gates, urns and iron crosses from New Orleans cemeteries popping up with exorbitant price tags in chic West Hollywood shops. It outraged Bate, who grew up taking walks with his grandfather in Lafayette cemetery. "It kind of

killed me," he said. "This was our history being sold at a profit." His New Orleans friend Patty Lee St. Martin alerted the police and together they started the National Cemetery Conservation Foundation, the city's third preservation group dedicated to the funerary cause. They lobby dealers and their high-end clientele to prevent "cemetery chic."

Detective Frederick Morton said the four original "baseline thieves" started snatching urns for heroin money but eventually graduated to more lucrative loot. They led Morton and his partner, Detective Lawrence Green, to four antique dealers, including Patout, who were subsequently arrested on charges

that included obstruction of justice and possession of stolen property. Formal charges, if any, are on hold for all suspects pending the outcome of the investigation, said a spokeswoman for the Orleans Parish district attorney's office.

"I think antiquity led to infatuation," said Green, who usually analyzes blood splatters but whose office is now strewn with copies of *Garden Design* magazine and *The New York Bee*, an antiques weekly. "These sculptures were forbidden treasure." Morton said the dealers gave the thieves art-history tutorials: The more the statues were worth.

Roy Boucvalet, an antiques dealer, was arrested after the police seized more than \$43,000 in stolen cemetery artifacts at Boucvalet House, his 150-year-old Greek Revival landmark home. His lawyer, Kendall Green, said the delay in filing formal charges "is unusual, and I suspect it's because they can't find any evidence to support the conspiracy theory."

The police also arrested Aaron Jarabica, co-owner of Top Drawer Antiques and Auction, on Magazine Street, who said he had no idea the artifacts in his shop were stolen. The thieves told him they "were from their grandmother's estate."

Lieutenant Jeff Winn, who is leading the investigation, said such an estate "didn't exist to our knowledge, but if it did, the place would look like a Roman coliseum."

Marc Charbonnet, a New York decorator and native New Orleansian, has seen cemetery art at the 26th Street Flea Market in New York. Its presence in Los Angeles does not surprise him, either. "You have one city seeped in the miasma of its own culture, and another city with none," he said. "You pull up a pot and a cross and place it in an L.A. loft with some overfurnished Edwardian furniture, and someone decides to call it neo-Gothic. But in New Orleans, the Gothic is real."



DANCES WITH DRAGONS — A parade winding through the streets of Macau on Wednesday in celebration of the Chinese New Year.

BEFORE she died last year, the model Kate Moss had not walked down a catwalk sober for 10 years, a British magazine reports. The Face said Moss, 25, had confided in an interview that for much of her career she consumed large quantities of cannabis and champagne. Moss, who spent time in a rehabilitation clinic in London in November, said she would often start drinking in the early hours and smoke pot with other models, the magazine said. "That's what you do," she was quoted as saying. "You just kind of have champagne. You always have champagne before shows. Always. Even at 10 in the morning." She said she "kind of lost the plot there a little bit," but added, "I'm changing, but I've always liked that lifestyle."

The opera singer Cecilia Bartoli broke her right ankle when she slipped on a patch of ice outside the Zurich Opera, but she still intends to sing her first Donna Elvira in Mozart's "Don Giovanni" on Sunday. The 31-year-old

mezzo-soprano injured herself after a rehearsal last week, her New York publicist said. Bartoli missed two performances of Rossini's "The Barber of Seville" as a result of the injury.

The Stone Temple Pilots singer Scott Weiland has been ordered back into drug rehabilitation. Weiland pleaded guilty in New York on Tuesday

to misdemeanor drug possession in connection with an arrest last June, when police found him in a city housing project carrying \$100 worth of heroin. He could have faced up to a year in jail. But a criminal court judge sentenced him to a conditional discharge and ordered him to complete a rehabilitation program that he was sentenced to in California after a 1995 narcotics arrest. The judge will dismiss Weiland's case after a year

if he complies with the court's orders and is not arrested again.

The Washington Post television critic Tom Shales will fill in for Gene Siskel on the "Siskel & Ebert" movie-review show while Siskel recuperates from brain surgery. Siskel, film critic for The Chicago Tribune, had surgery in May to remove a growth on his brain. Roger Ebert, film critic for The Chicago Sun-Times, has been host by himself since Siskel took a leave of absence Feb. 3.

Prince Andrew has been named the patron of a group that is building a memorial chapel to the British servicemen killed in the 1982 Falklands War. The Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel will be built on the grounds of Pangbourne College west of London. It will include brass plaques bearing the names of the 257 British servicemen who died in the war with Argentina. The prince was a helicopter pilot during the conflict.

PEOPLE

Eric Clapton Plans Auction of His Guitars

Reuters

LONDON — Eric Clapton will auction off 100 of his 150 guitars to raise money for a center that he created to help people recover from alcohol and drug abuse. The British blues guitarist said he hopes to raise about \$750,000 for the Crossroads Center, which he founded in 1997 in Antigua in the Caribbean. "The auction finally gives me a chance to share with others the instruments that have given me so much pleasure throughout my career," the 53-year-old Clapton said.

The guitars will go on sale at Christie's in New York on June 24. They include the 1956 Fender Stratocaster he calls "Brownie," on which he played the song "Layla" in the 1970s, and a Gibson ES-335, which he says he used for concerts and recordings in the '90s.



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See KOSOVO, Page 10

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